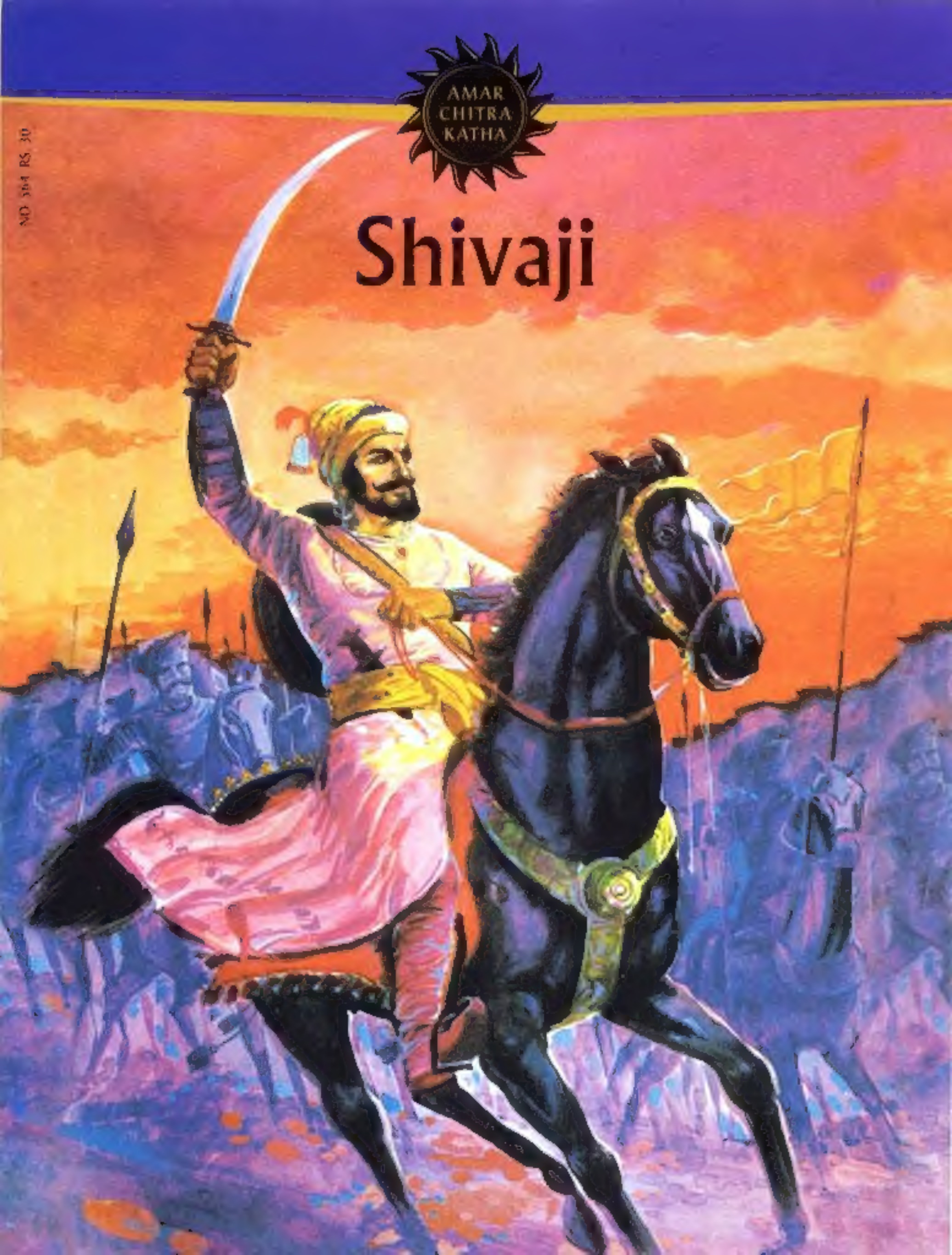


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Shivaji





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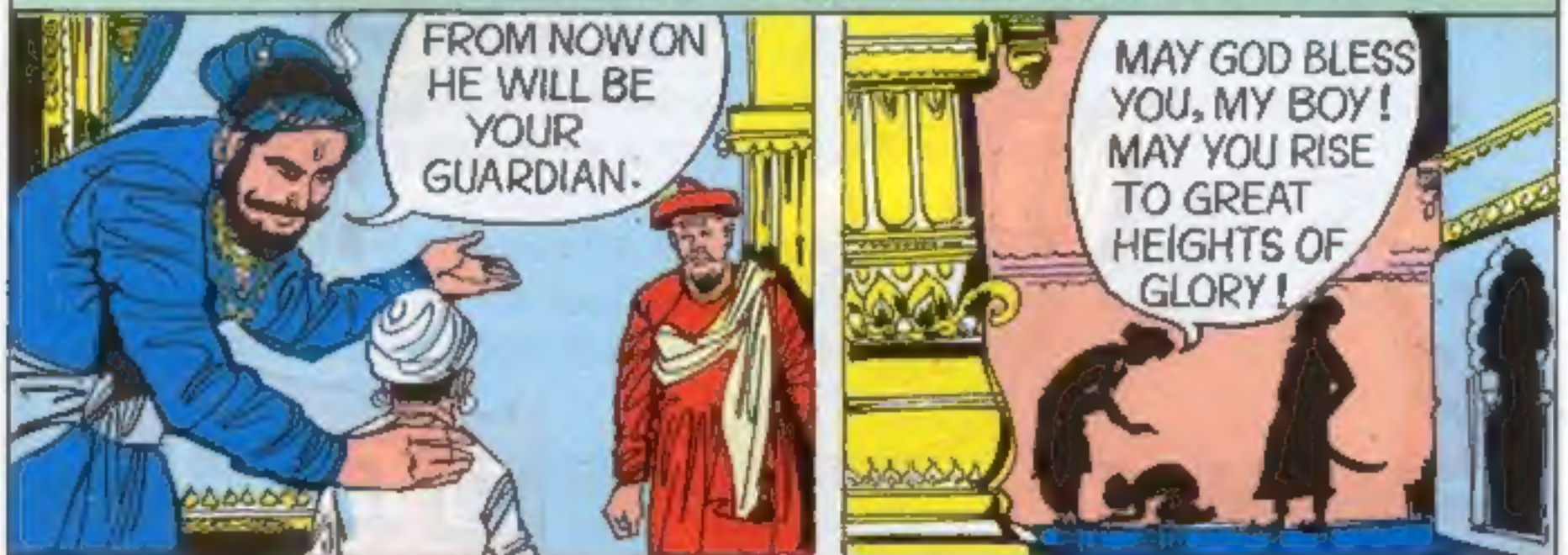
SHIVAJI

IT WAS THE 19TH DAY OF FEBRUARY IN THE YEAR 1630. THE SUN WAS ABOUT TO SET, WHEN THE DRUMS IN THE FORTRESS OF SHIVNERI, IN MAHARASHTRA, PROCLAIMED THE NEWS THAT A SON WAS BORN TO JIJABAI. HER HUSBAND SHAHAJI WAS AWAY, FIGHTING BATTLES FOR THE SULTAN OF BIJAPUR. FOR HUNDREDS OF YEARS THE MARATHAS HAD BEEN UNDER THE SUPPRESSION OF FOREIGN RULERS. AT THE TIME OF SHIVAJI'S BIRTH, BESIDES THE SULTAN, THERE WAS THE GREAT MUGHAL EMPEROR OF DELHI AND THE NEGRO COASTAL KING, THE SIDDHI JOHAR.





WHEN SHIVA GREW TO BE A LITTLE BOY, SHAHAJI TOOK HIM TO BIJAPUR
AND PLACED HIM UNDER A GREAT TEACHER, DADAJI KOND-DEO.



DADAJI TAUGHT HIM HOW TO READ
AND WRITE...



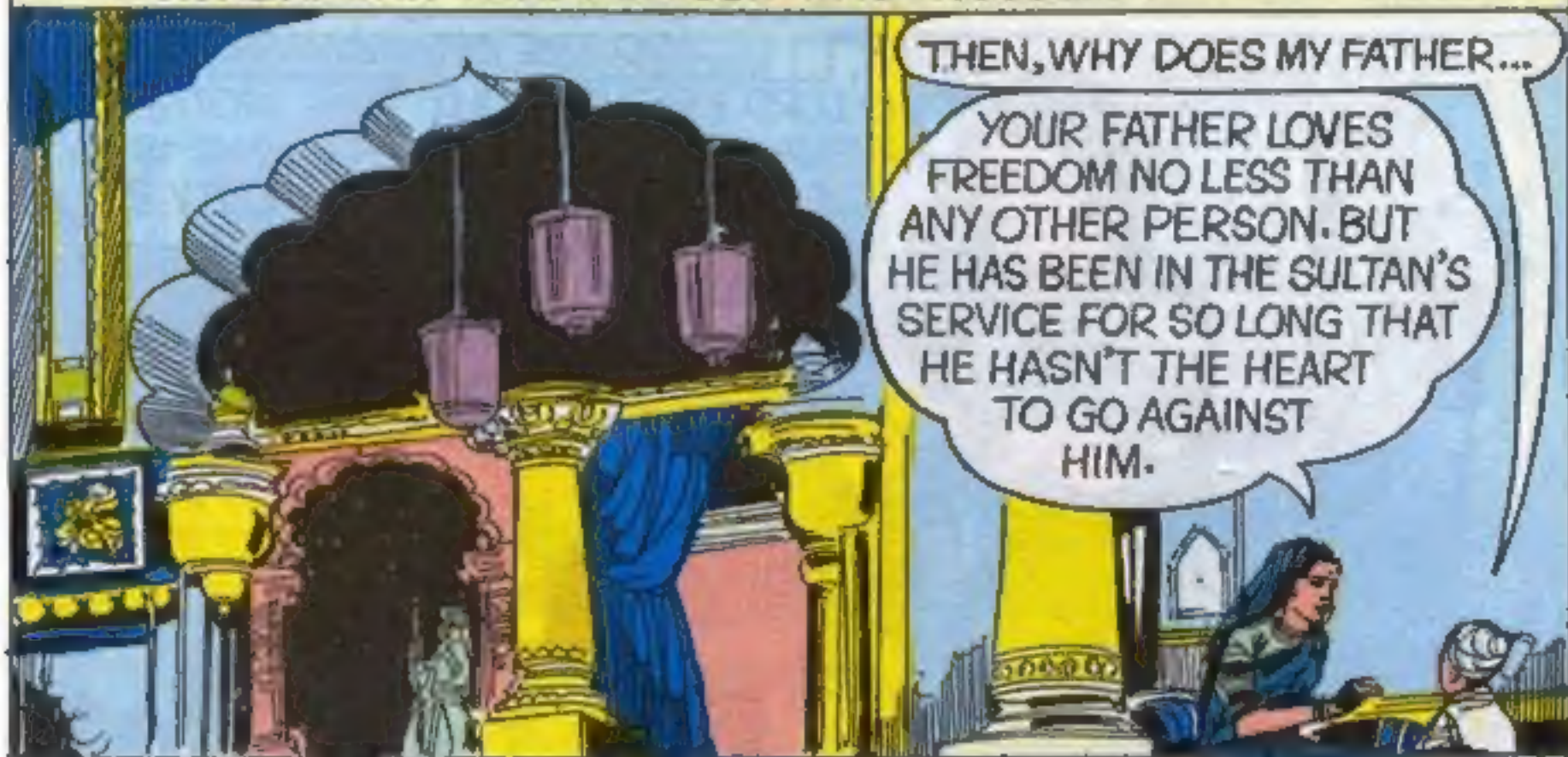
... AND SHOOT...







JJABAI SAW THAT HER SON WAS TROUBLED.





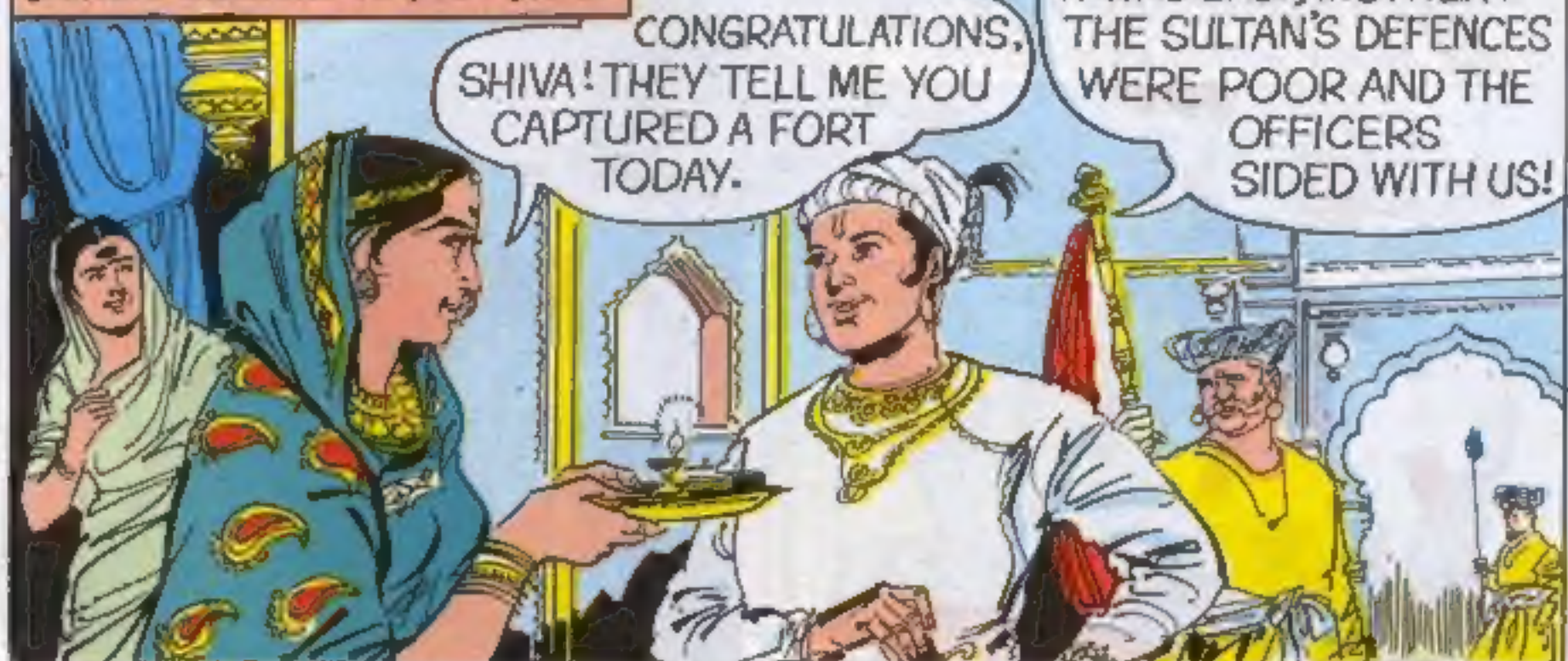
THOUGH APPOINTED TO COLLECT REVENUE, DADAJI BECAME THE VIRTUAL RULER OF POONA. RIGHT UNDER HIS NOSE, SHIVA MADE BOLD PLANS.



THE FIRST IMPORTANT FORT SHIVAJI CONQUERED WAS TORNA.



JIJABAI BLESSED HIS EFFORTS.



THE NEWS OF SHIVAJI'S ADVENTURES
ANNOYED THE SULTAN.

THEY SAY THE SULTAN HAS ARRESTED
YOUR FATHER — TO TEACH YOU
A LESSON.

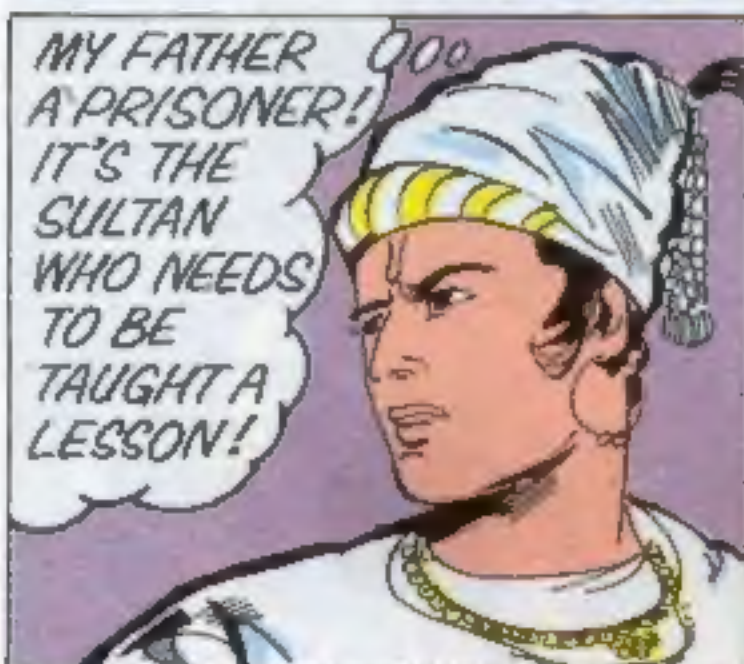


AFZUL KHAN, THE WICKED
COMMANDER, PUT
HANDCUFFS ON
SHAHAJI'S
HANDS!

AND
THE SULTAN
HAS SENT AN
ARMY
TO ATTACK
US!



MY FATHER
A PRISONER!
IT'S THE
SULTAN
WHO NEEDS
TO BE
TAUGHT A
LESSON!

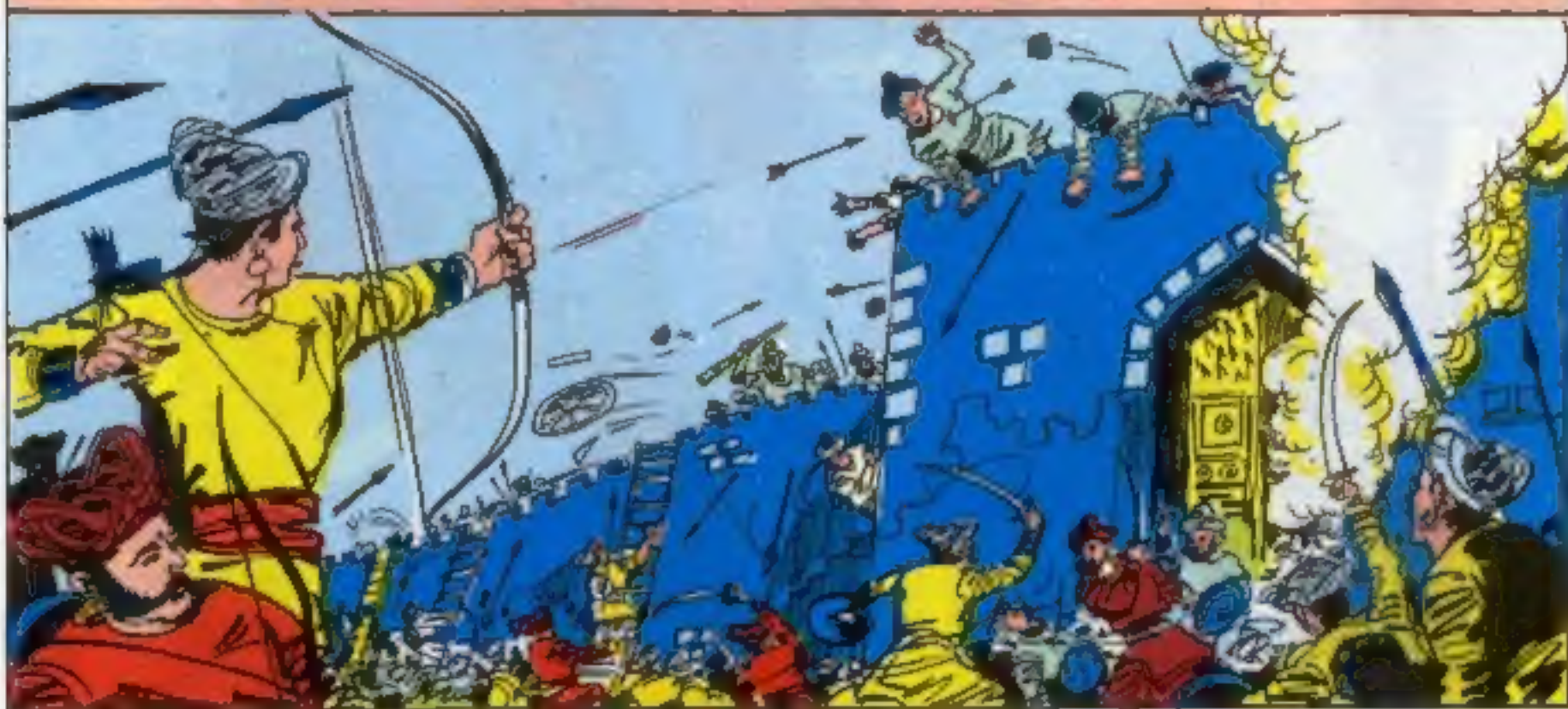


WHEN THE ARMY APPROACHED,
SHIVAJI WAS AT FORT PURANDAR.

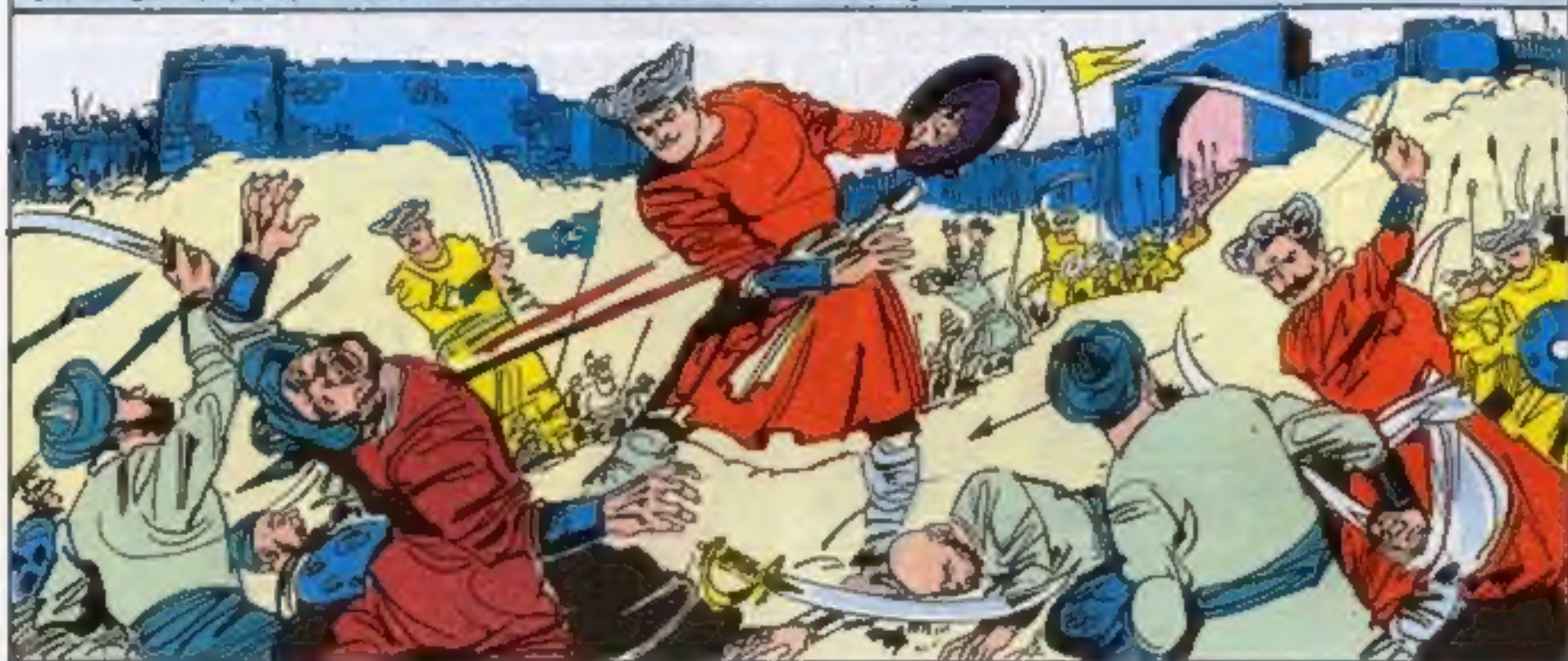
GO AND MEET
THE ENEMY.



SOME OF THE ENEMY TROOPS HAD ENCAMPED IN A SMALL FORTRESS.
SHIVAJI'S FORCES ATTACKED AND DEFEATED THEM.



AND WHEN THE ENEMY TRIED TO ATTACK THE FORT AT PURANDAR, IT WAS DRIVEN AWAY WITH EVERY MEANS AT HAND.



THE SULTAN HAD LEARNT HIS LESSON.



RELEASE SHAHAJI!
TREAT HIM
WITH HONOUR!

BUT VENGEANCE WAS IN THE
AIR. SOON AFZUL KHAN,
BIJAPUR'S MIGHTY SOLDIER
STARTED WITH A HUGE ARMY
AGAINST SHIVAJI.



I WILL
CATCH THAT
MOUNTAIN
RAT —
DEAD OR
ALIVE!

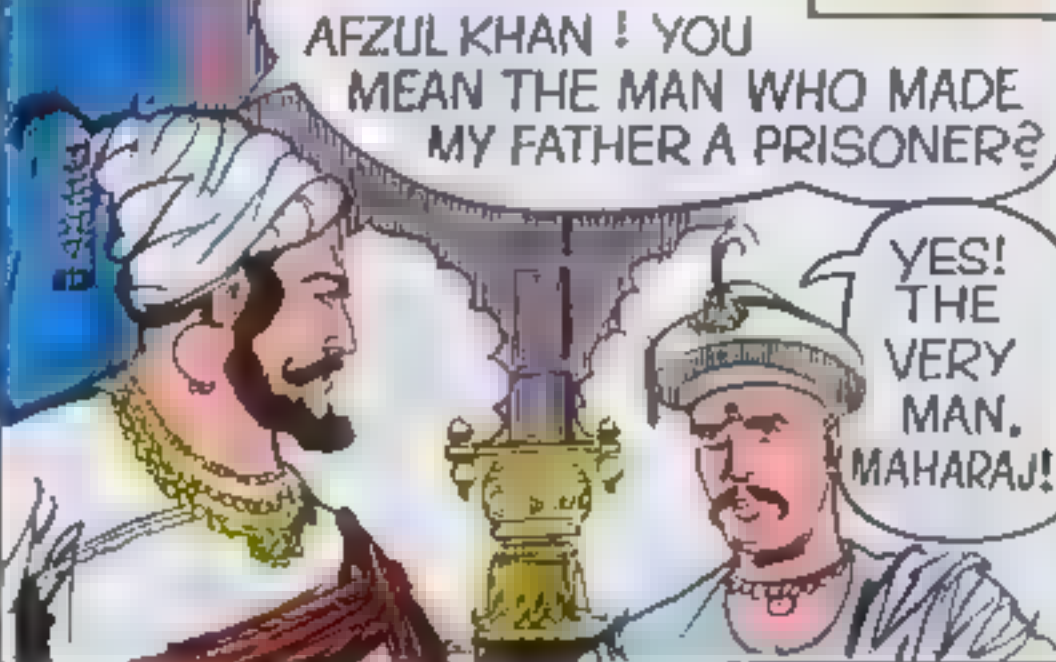
HE SWOOPED ON TOWNS AND VILLAGES SPREADING TERROR AND RUIN.



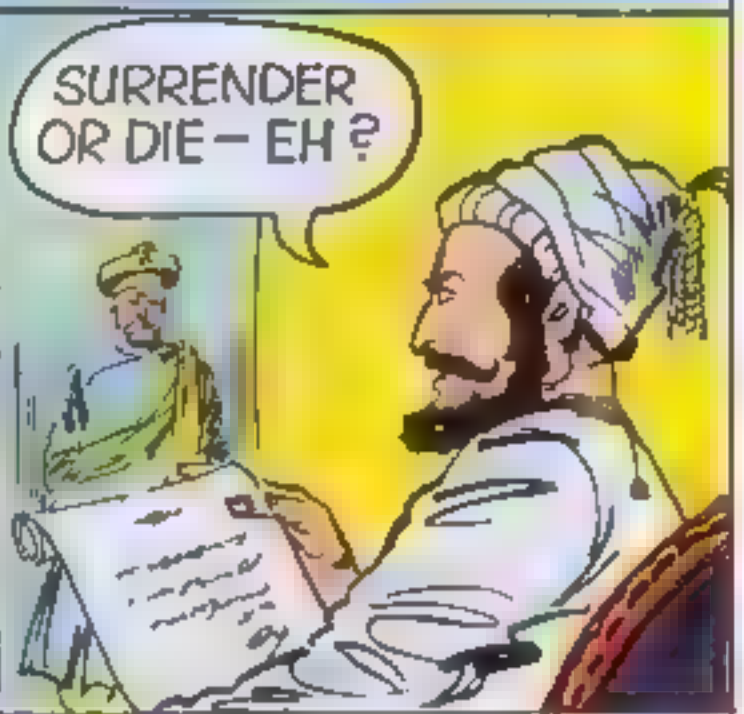
AFZUL KHAN'S ARMY THEN CAMPED IN THE MOUNTAINOUS DISTRICT OF WAI, AND PLUNDERED THE SURROUNDING VILLAGES.

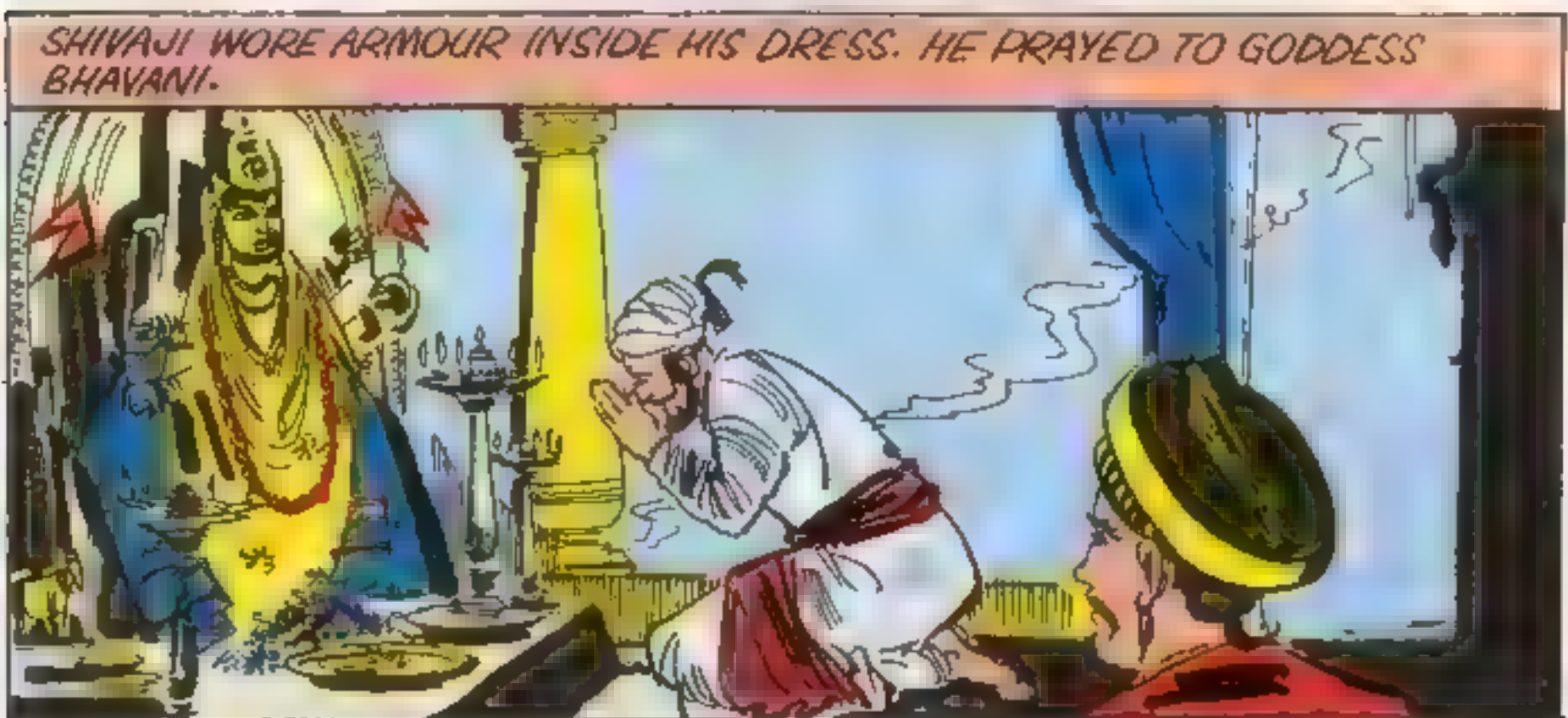
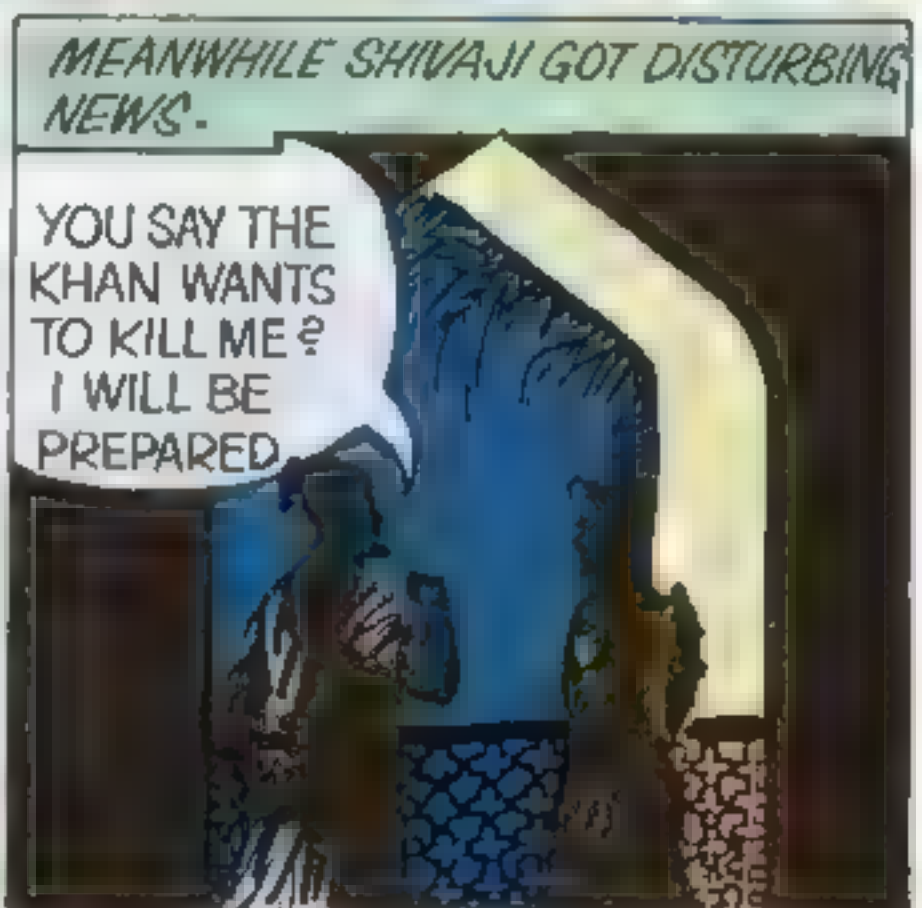
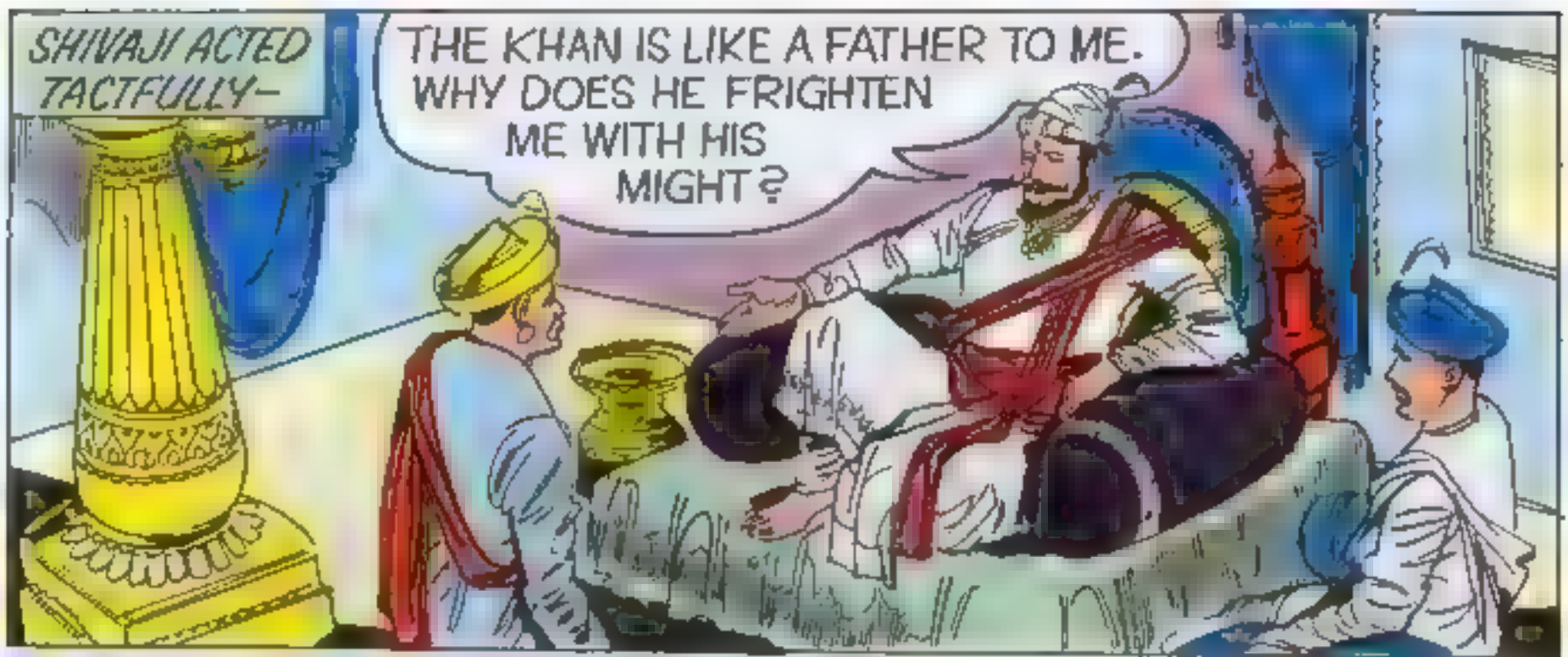


IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD OF WAI WAS PRATAPGADH WHERE SHIVAJI WAS STATIONED AT THE TIME.



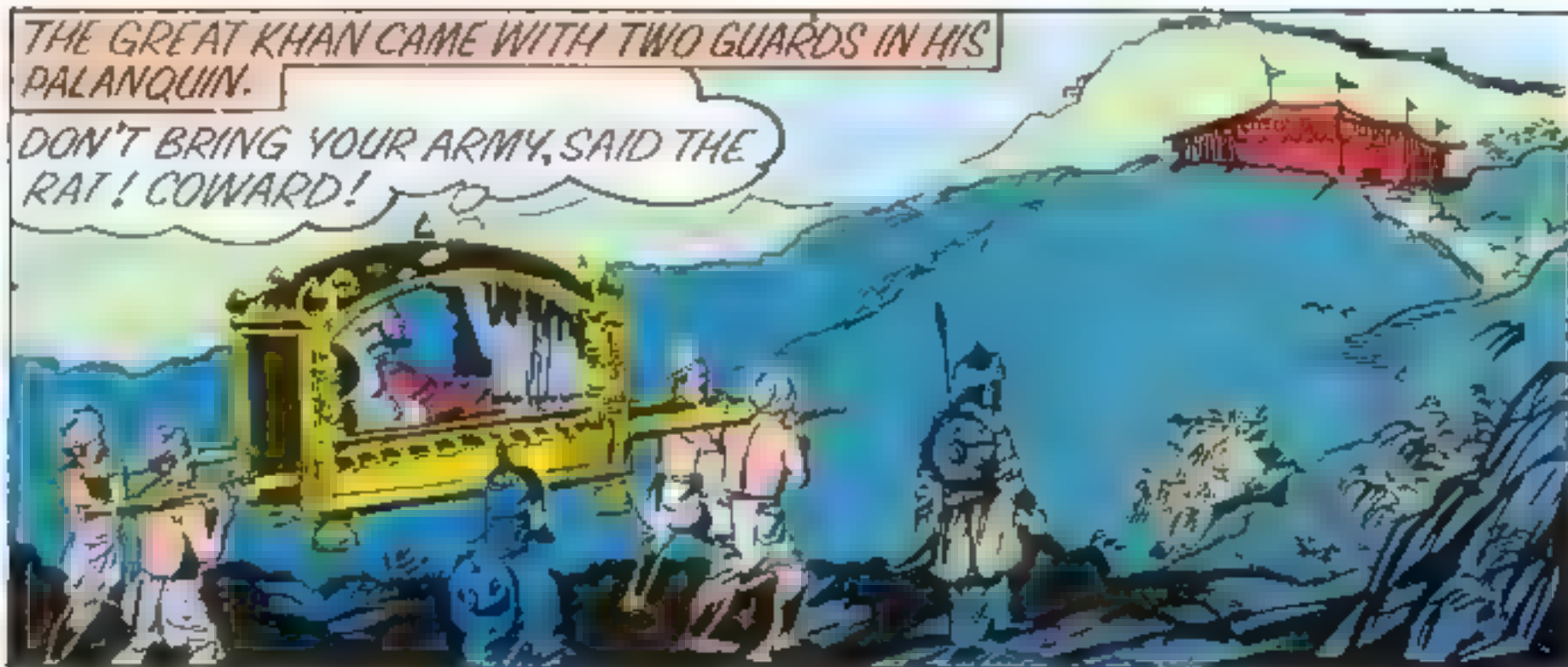
SOON AN ENVOY FROM AFZUL KHAN ARRIVED.





THE GREAT KHAN CAME WITH TWO GUARDS IN HIS PALANQUIN.

DON'T BRING YOUR ARMY, SAID THE RAT! COWARD!



SHIVAJI WENT DOWN TO MEET THE KHAN WITH ONLY TWO GUARDS.

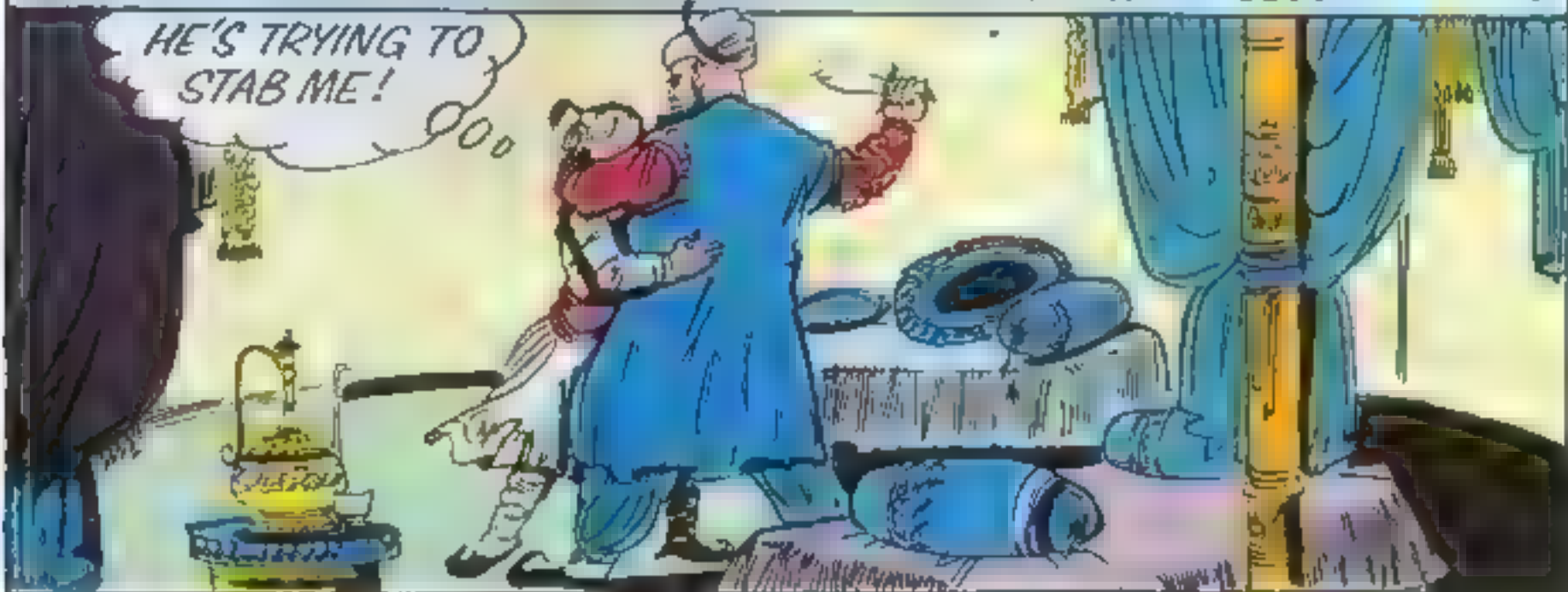
YOUR END IS NEAR!

COME, MY SON.



BUT AS HE EMBRACED SHIVAJI WITH A GREAT SHOW OF LOVE —

HE'S TRYING TO STAB ME!



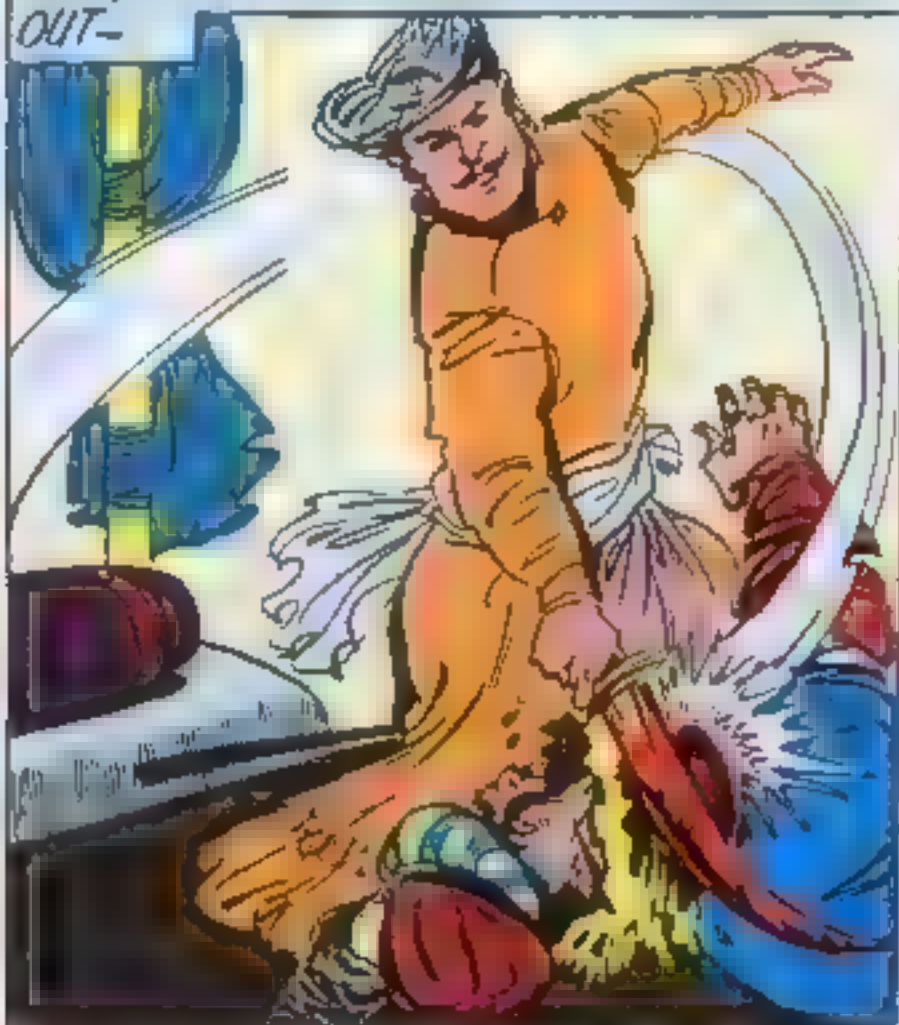
SHIVAJI SEIZED THE KNIFE WITH HIS LEFT HAND AND RAISED HIS RIGHT HAND.



THE TIGER CLAWS ON SHIVAJI'S FINGERS PIERCED THE KHAN'S STOMACH.



THEN, AS THE WOUNDED KHAN STAGGERED OUT—



THE KHAN
IS DEAD !

LONG LIVE
SHIVAJI
MAHARAJ !



SUDDENLY, OUT OF THE JUNGLE THAT SURROUNDED THE FORT,
WAVE AFTER WAVE OF MARATHA SOLDIERS POURED OUT—
RAISING THEIR WAR CRY.



HAR HAR MAHADEO!

THE BATTLE THAT FOLLOWED LASTED TILL SUNSET.



THERE WAS JUBILATION ALL AROUND.



THAT WAS A NEAR
ESCAPE, MY DEAR
SON. THE BATTLE
HAS ENDED,
HASN'T IT ?

YES, MOTHER,
AND MUCH
WEALTH TOO
HAS FALLEN IN
OUR HANDS.

IT WAS SHIVAJI'S HOUR OF
VICTORY, AND HE TOOK FULL
ADVANTAGE OF IT.

WE SHALL
UNDERTAKE AN
IMMEDIATE
CAMPAIGN.

IT WAS A WHIRLWIND CAMPAIGN. IN THIRTEEN
DAYS HE RODE OVER A THOUSAND MILES,
EVERYWHERE DEFEATING THE ENEMY AND
ENLARGING HIS KINGDOM.

FINALLY HE TOOK PANHALA,
A FORT OF TREMENDOUS VALUE.
AND THEN—

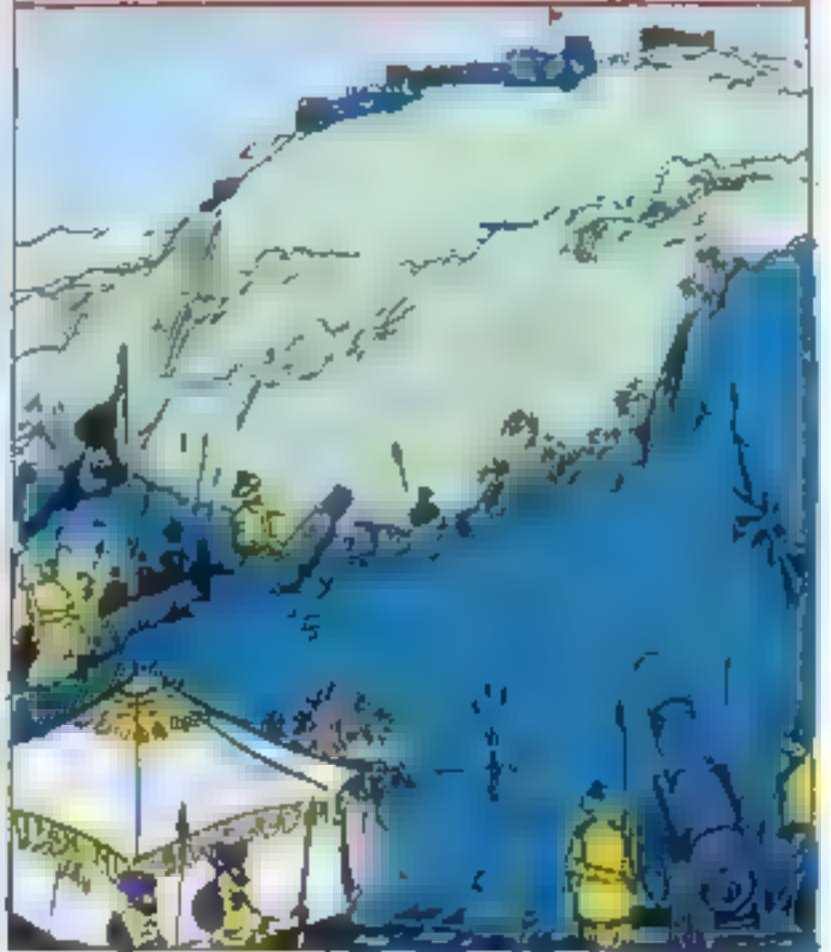
PANHALA IS
OURS. BUT
LOOK THERE.
BAJI!

A SEA OF
SOLDIERS
HEADING
TOWARDS
US.

MAHARAJ, IT IS
SIDDHI JOHAR,
OUR ENEMY
FROM THE
SEA-COAST.

AND THE
SEA-FARING
ENGLISHMEN
ARE HELPING
HIM !

THE SIDDHI'S TROOPS
SURROUNDED THEM. ALL
EXITS WERE BLOCKED.



THE SIEGE WENT ON FOR MONTHS. THE MARATHAS DEFENDED THE
FORT BRAVELY.

IT WILL RAIN ANY
MOMENT
NOW !



THE MONSOON BROKE WITH FULL FURY.

HOW LONG CAN WE
GO ON LIKE
THIS ?

I MUST BE
TACTFUL
NOW.



RUMOURS SPREAD. IN THE EVENING -

SHIVAJI IS THINKING
OF GIVING UP
THE FORT!

GOOD! AFTER THIS
WE WILL TURN TO
VISHALGADH!



BUT THAT NIGHT -

THEY SAY,
SHIVAJI HAS
FLED THE
FORT.



SHIVAJI HAD INDEED LEFT THE FORT. WITH A THOUSAND SELECT SOLDIERS,
HE WAS MAKING HIS WAY TO VISHALGADH - THROUGH RAIN AND THUNDER.

ARE THEY ON THE ALERT?

YES SIR, WE ARE
BEING
CHASED!



A NARROW PASS!

BUT ONCE
WE ARE
THROUGH,
WE REACH
VISHALGADH!



GO AHEAD,
MASTER. WE WILL
REMAIN HERE
TO DEFEND
THE PASS.

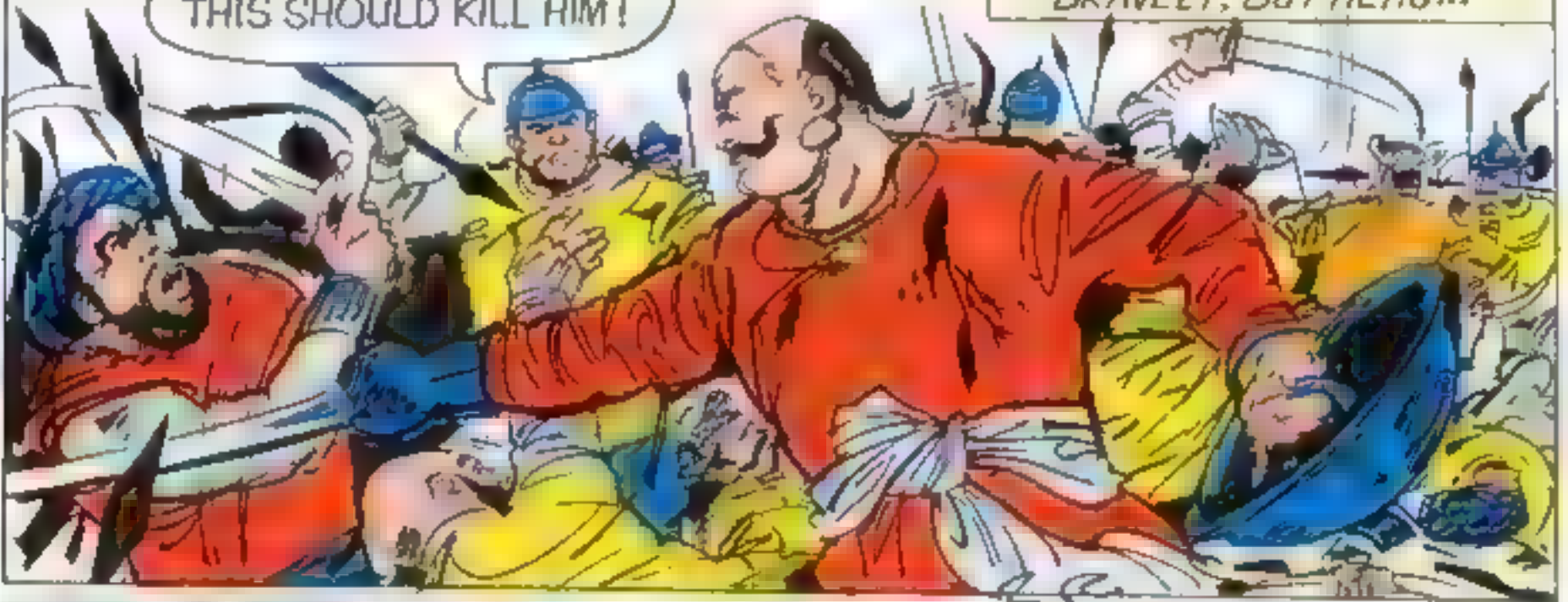
YOU ARE
A GREAT
SOLDIER,
BAJI!



WITH HARDLY SIX HUNDRED MARATHAS UNDER HIM, BAJI FOUGHT THE ENEMY

BRAVELY, BUT ALAS...

THIS SHOULD KILL HIM!



BAJI'S WOUND WAS FATAL.

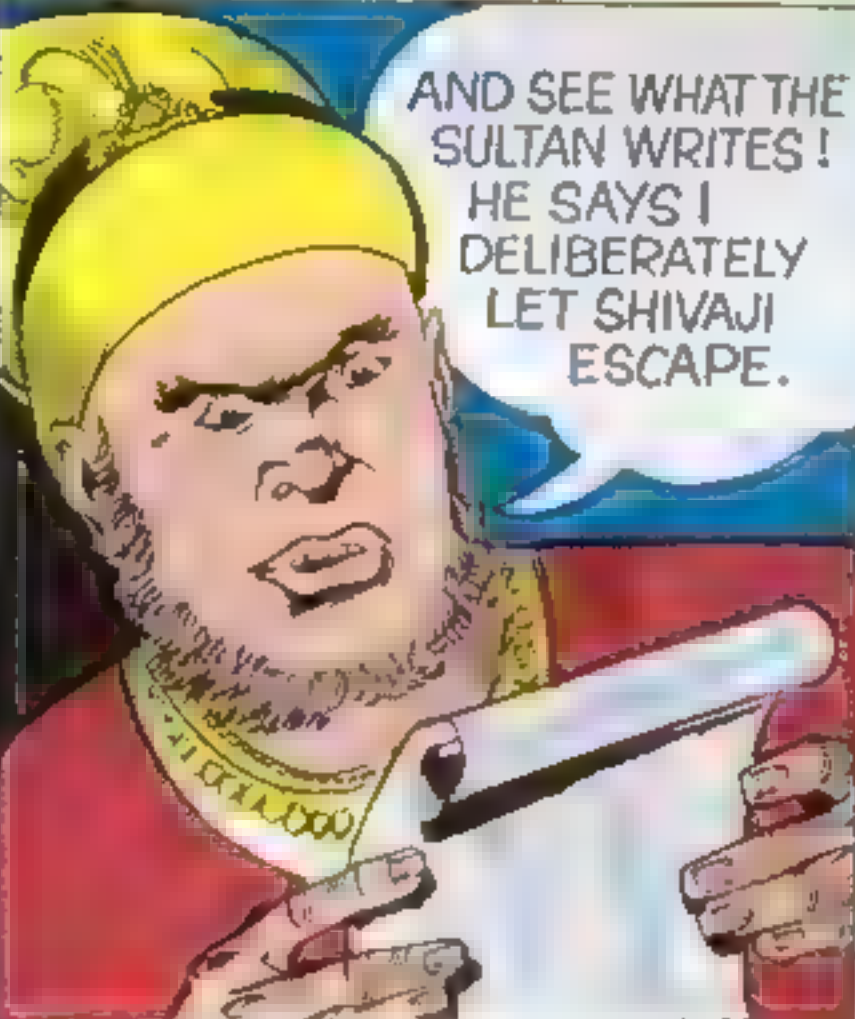
THE CANNON BOOMS FROM A DISTANCE! THAT MEANS THE MASTER HAS REACHED VISHALGADH!

I MAY NOW DIE IN PEACE!



AT PANHALA THE SIDDHI JOHAR'S ANGER KNEW NO BOUNDS!

AND SEE WHAT THE SULTAN WRITES! HE SAYS I DELIBERATELY LET SHIVAJI ESCAPE.

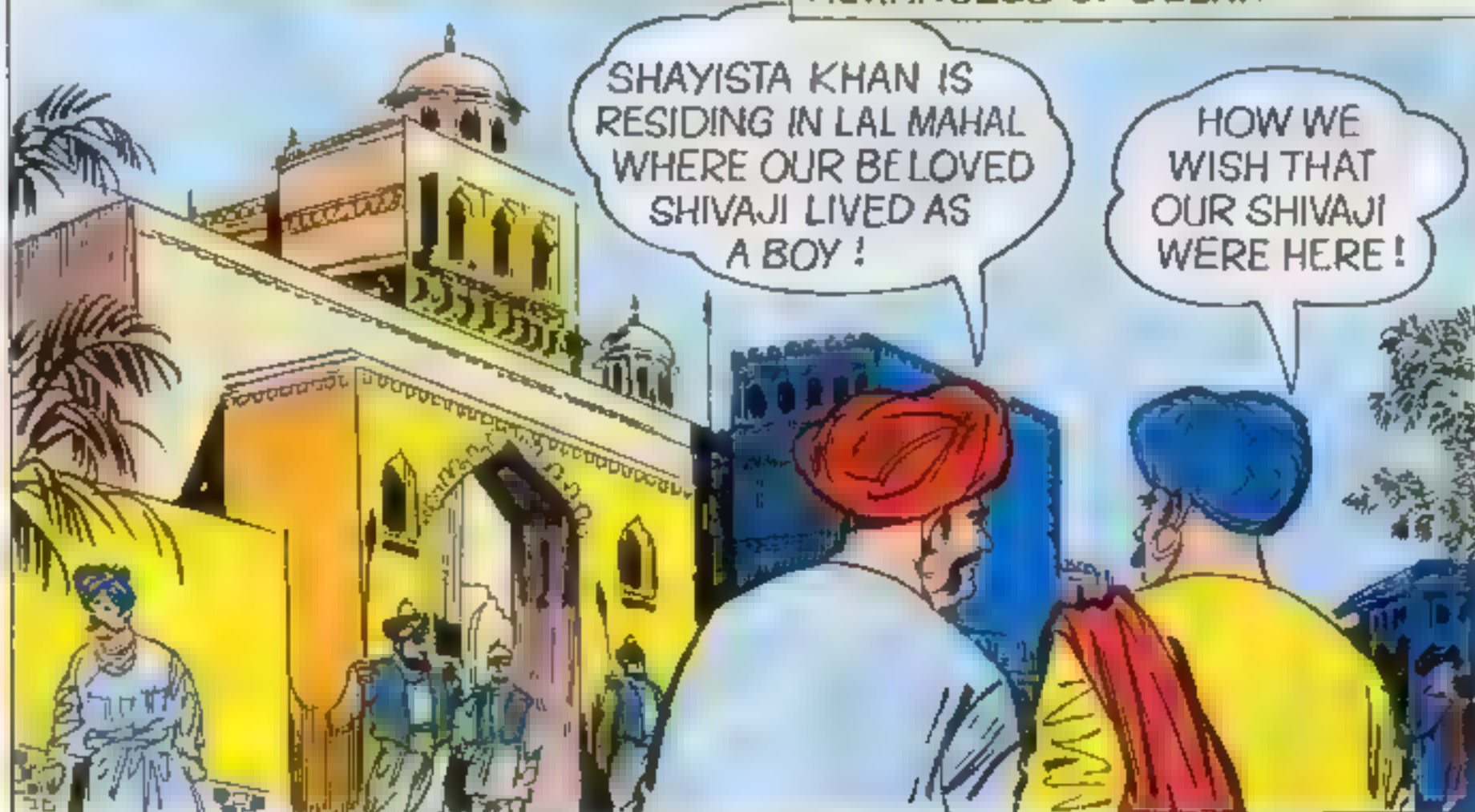


THOUGH THE SIDDHI DID NOT KNOW IT, THERE WERE VERY FEW GUARDS AT PANHALA. SHIVAJI DID NOT WANT THEM TO DIE UNNECESSARILY, SO HE ORDERED THE FORT TO BE HANDED OVER!

AN EMPTY FORT! WHAT CAN I DO WITH IT?



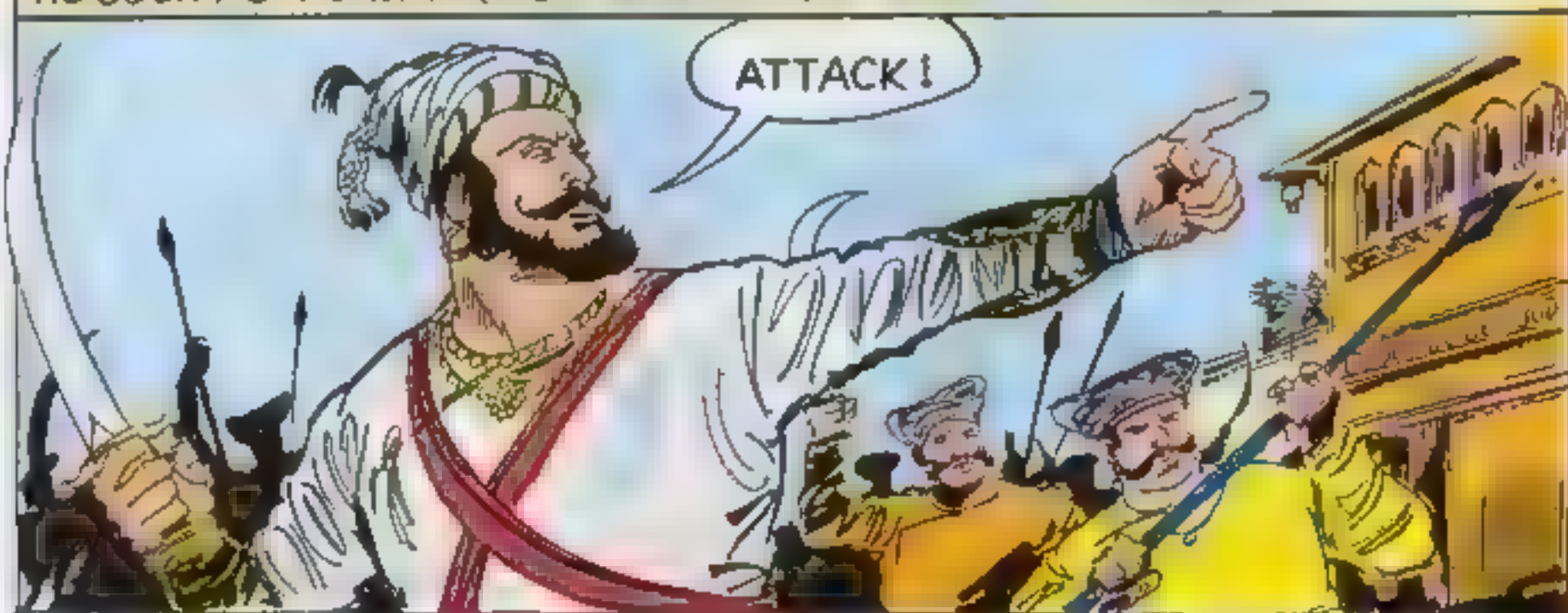
BY THE TIME SHIVAJI RETURNED FROM VISHALGADH, A STILL MORE POWERFUL ENEMY WAS OCCUPYING POONA - SHAYISTA KHAN, THE UNCLE OF EMPEROR AURANGZEB OF DELHI.



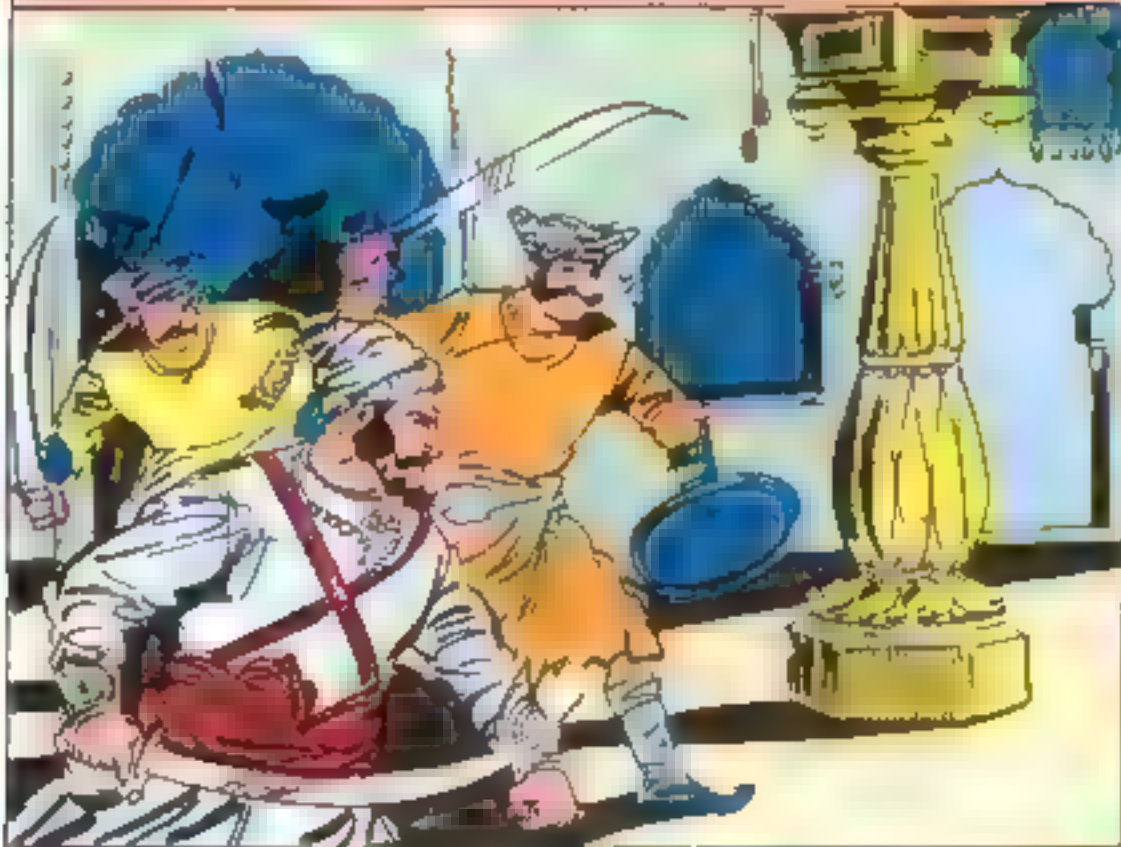
SHAYISTA KHAN HAD POSTED ARMED GUARDS ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE CITY.



AS SOON AS THE 'MARRIAGE PROCESSION' REACHED LAL MAHAL -



ROOM AFTER ROOM WAS SEARCHED ...



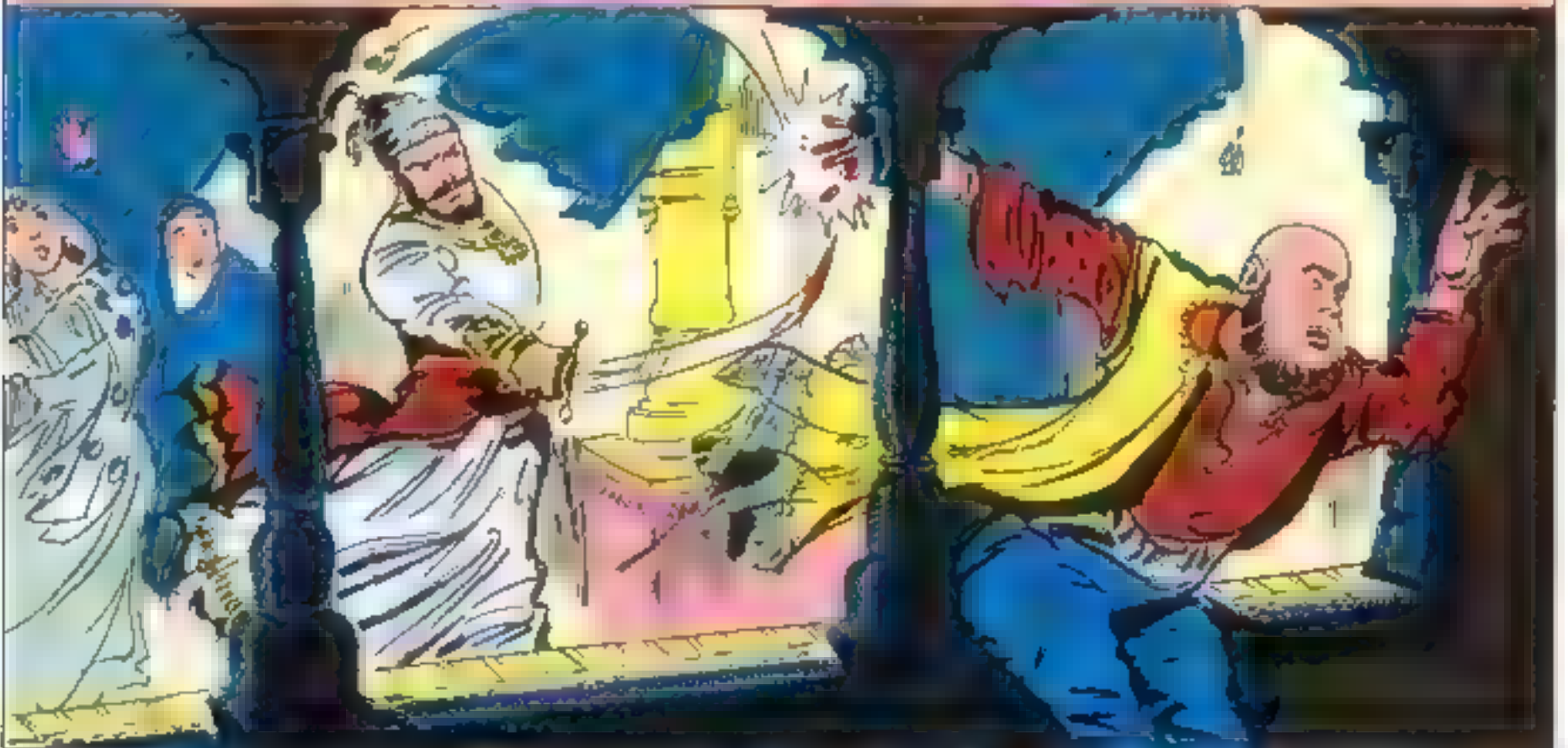
...TILL AT LAST—

HEAVENS!
IT'S
SHIVAJI!

THERE
GOES THE
KHAN!



SHAYISTA KHAN ESCAPED, BUT MINUS THREE FINGERS!



THE INCIDENT SHOOK SHAYISTA
KHAN TERRIBLY.



THAT
SHIVAJI —
COMES AND
GOES LIKE
A GHOST!

SHIVAJI WAS LEFT IN PEACE FOR SOME TIME — BUT...

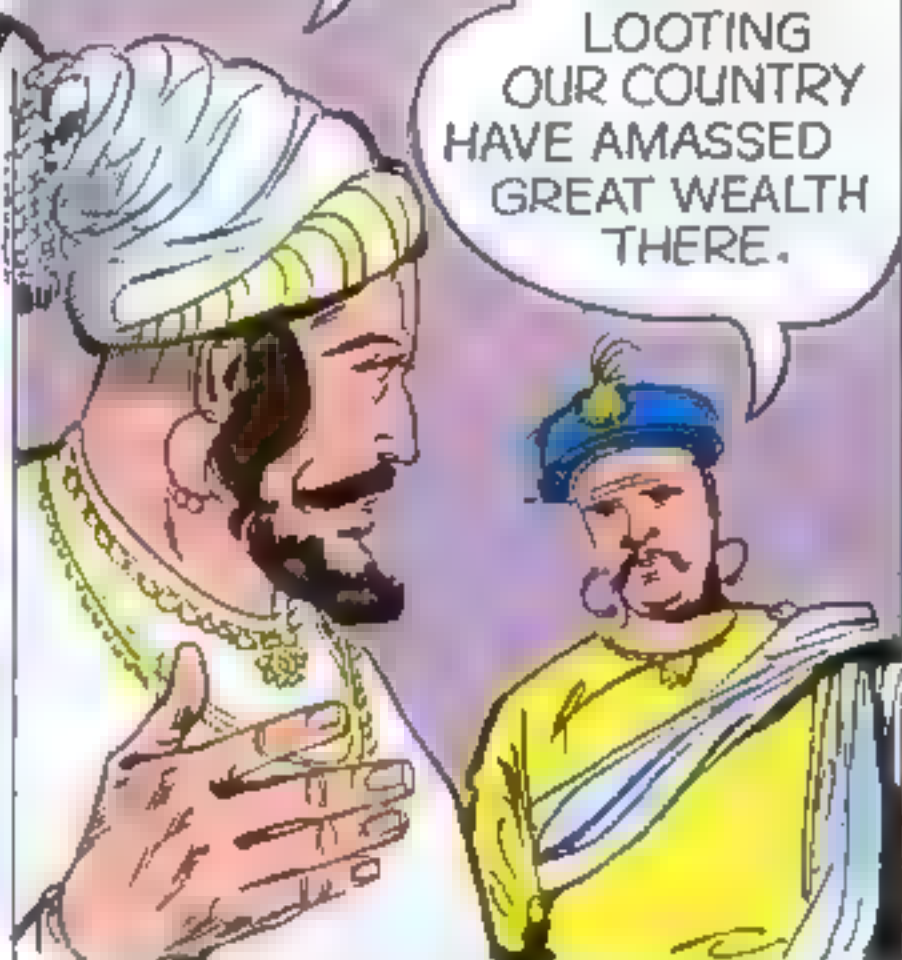
WE CAN HAVE NO PEACE TILL COMPLETE FREEDOM IS OURS!

WHAT WE NEED IS MONEY, MAHARAJ. WARS ARE COSTLY.



MY SPIES TELL ME, THERE IS MONEY IN SURAT.

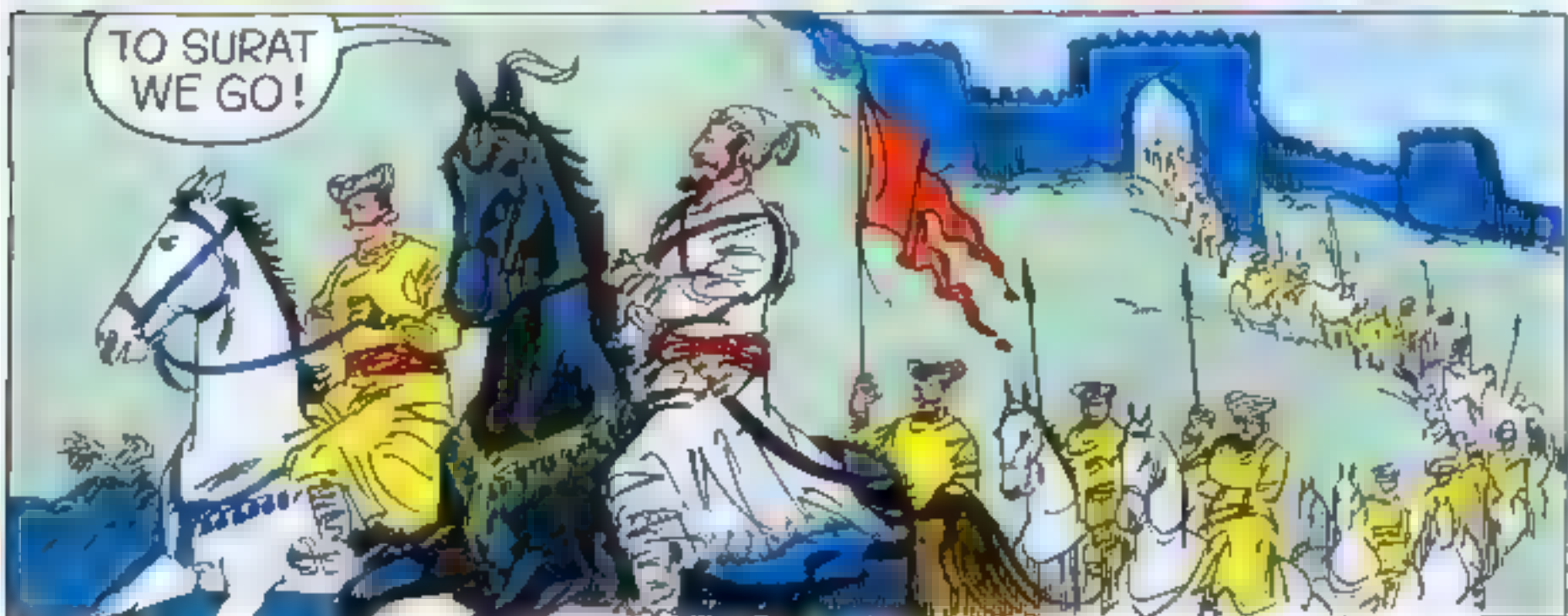
YES. THE ENGLISHMEN WHO ARE LOOTING OUR COUNTRY HAVE AMASSED GREAT WEALTH THERE.



IT IS ALSO AURANGZEB'S PRESTIGE PORT.



TO SURAT WE GO!



SHIVAJI'S ATTACK ON SURAT WAS AS SWIFT AS LIGHTNING.



FOR FOUR DAYS HE
'SACKED' THE CITY.

DON'T ROB
THE POOR!

AND ABOVE ALL DON'T
HARASS THE
WOMEN!

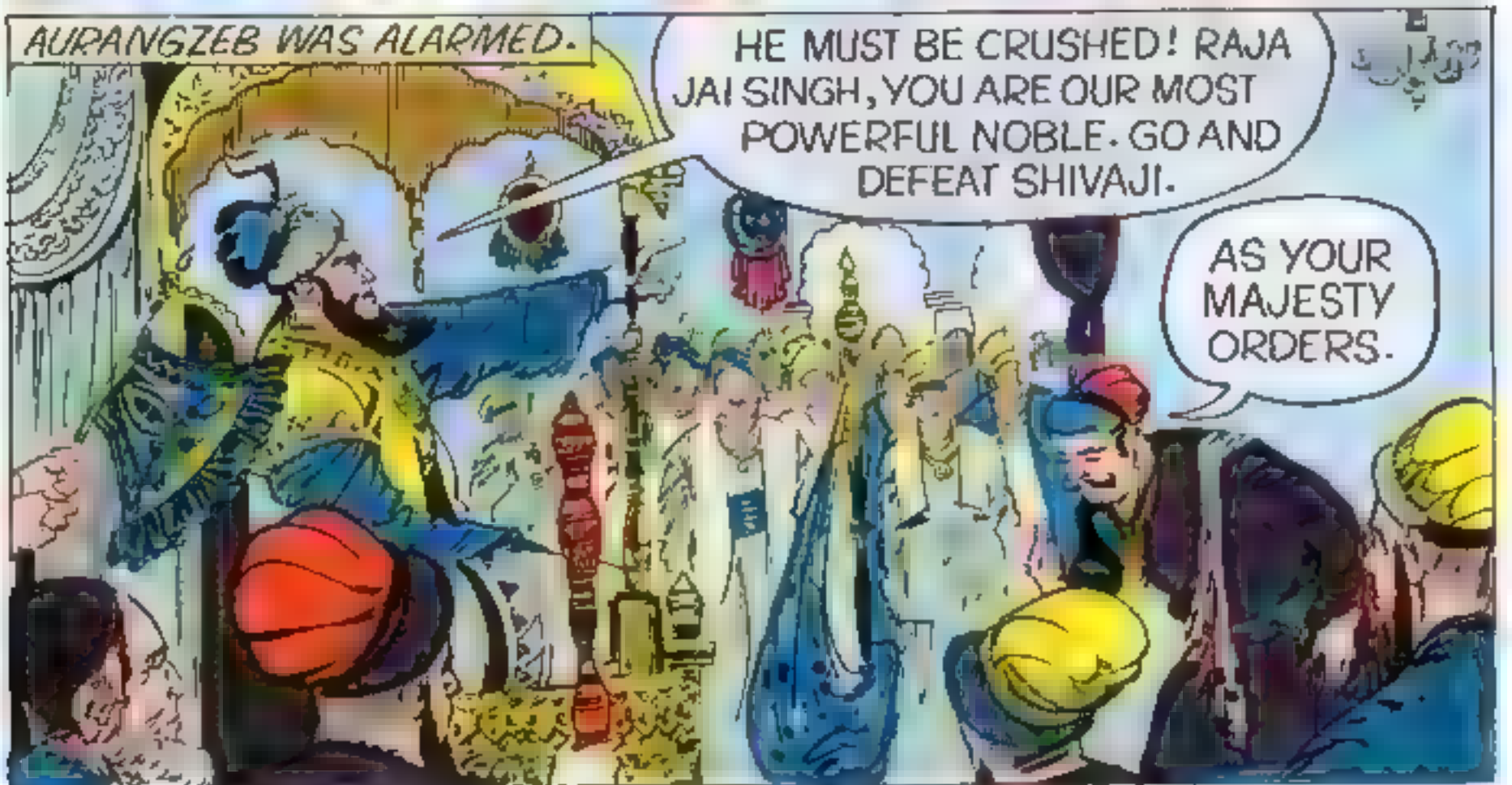


THEY RETURNED AS
QUICKLY AS THEY
HAD COME.

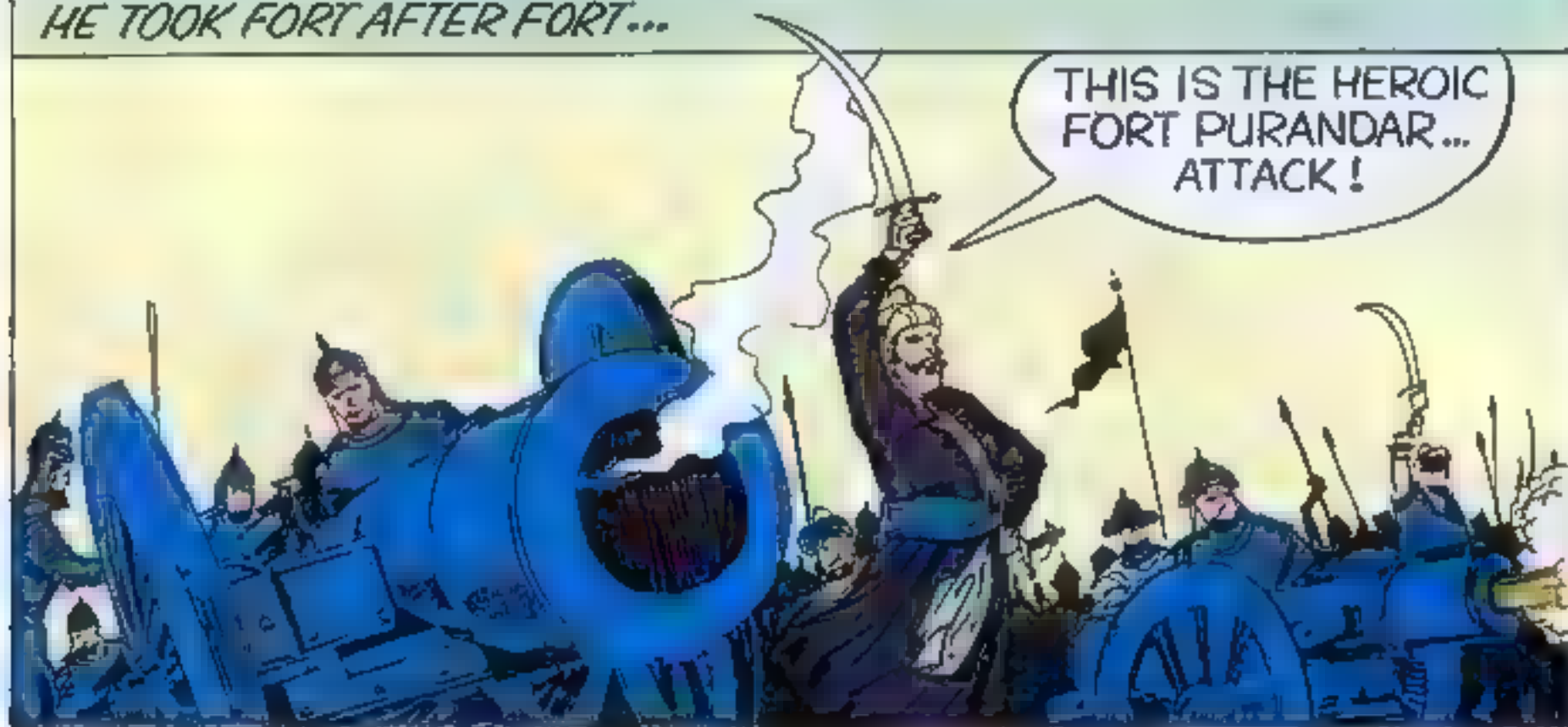
AURANGZEB WAS ALARMED.

HE MUST BE CRUSHED! RAJA
JAI SINGH, YOU ARE OUR MOST
POWERFUL NOBLE. GO AND
DEFEAT SHIVAJI.

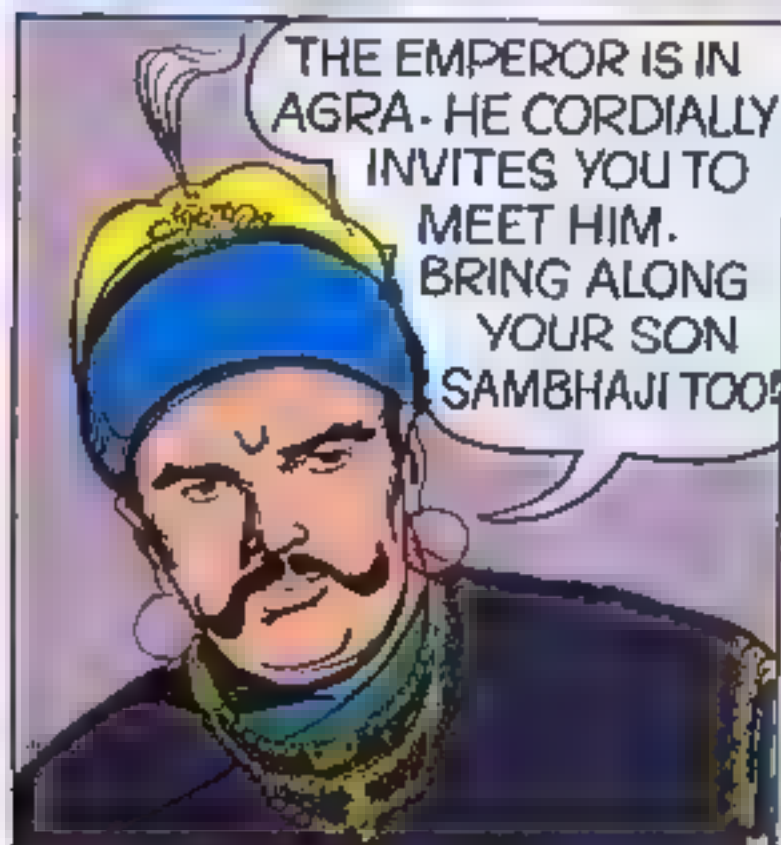
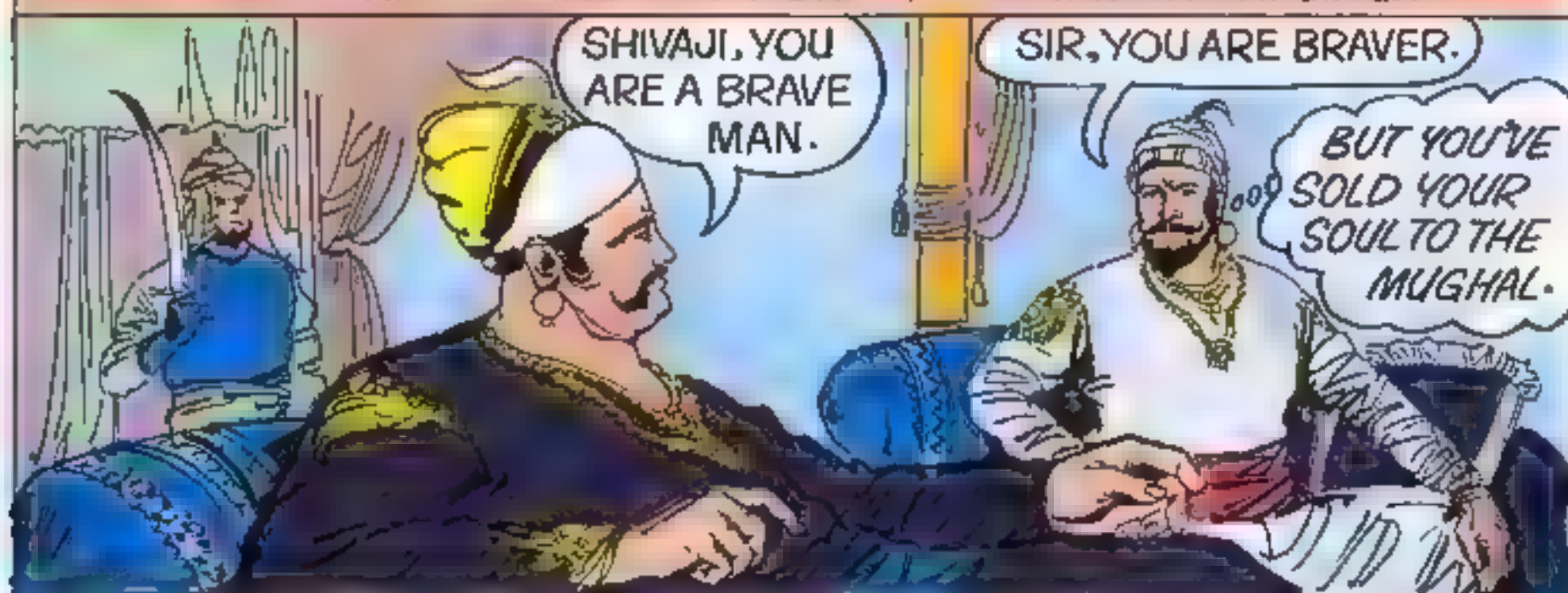
AS YOUR
MAJESTY
ORDERS.

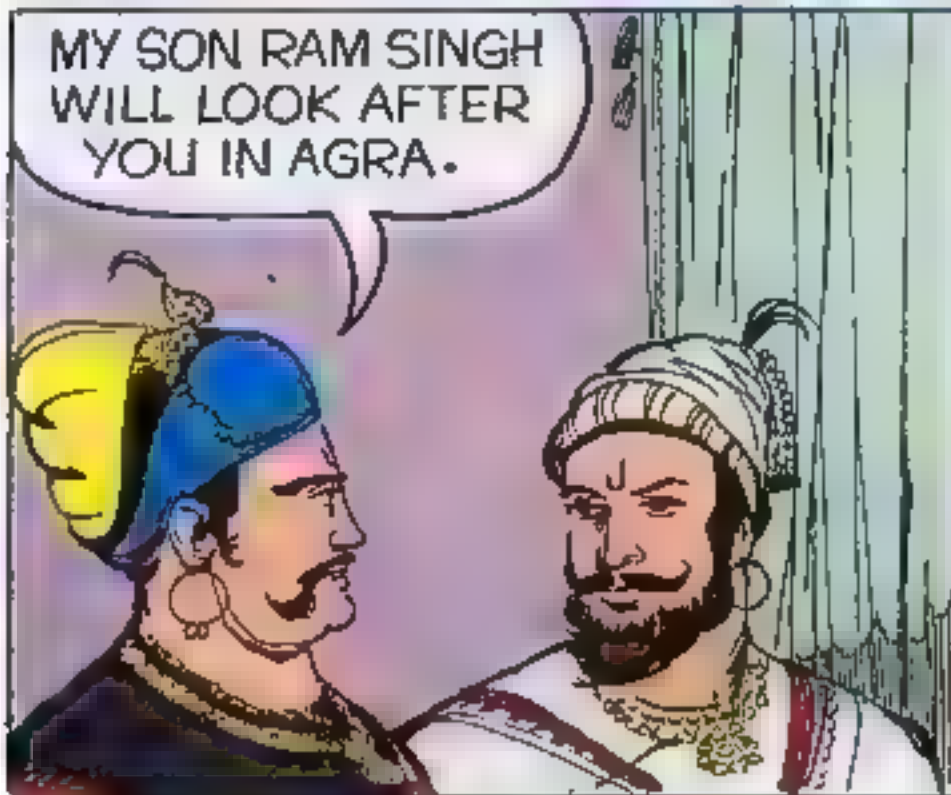
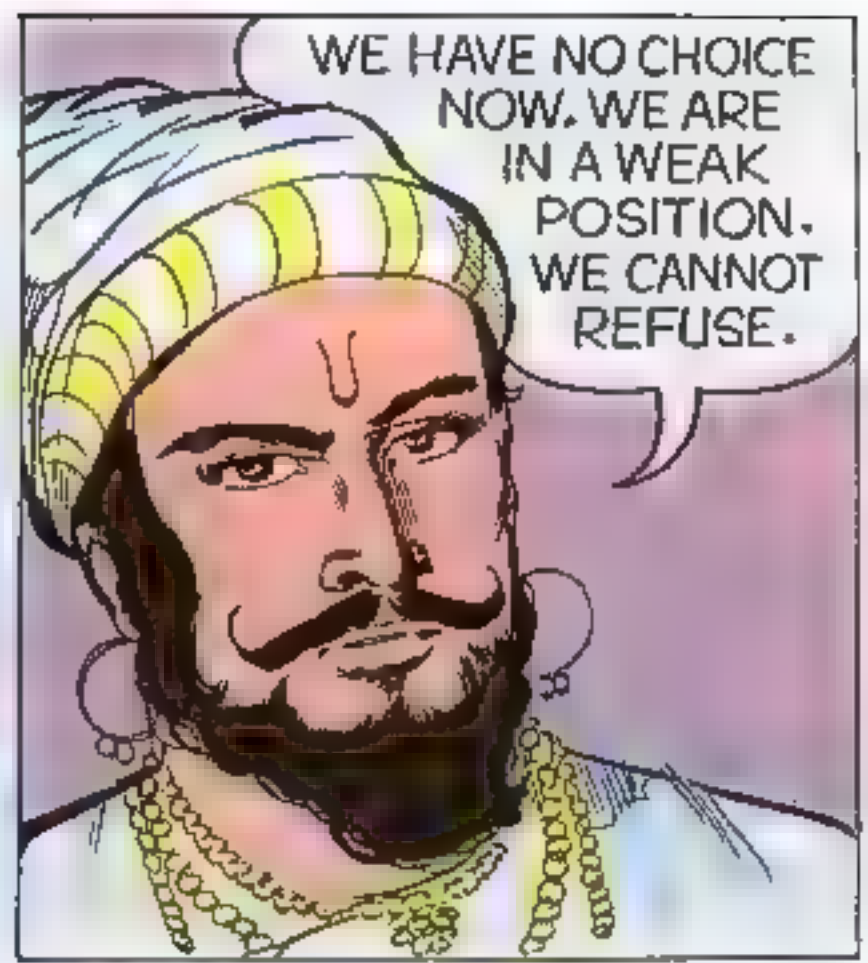


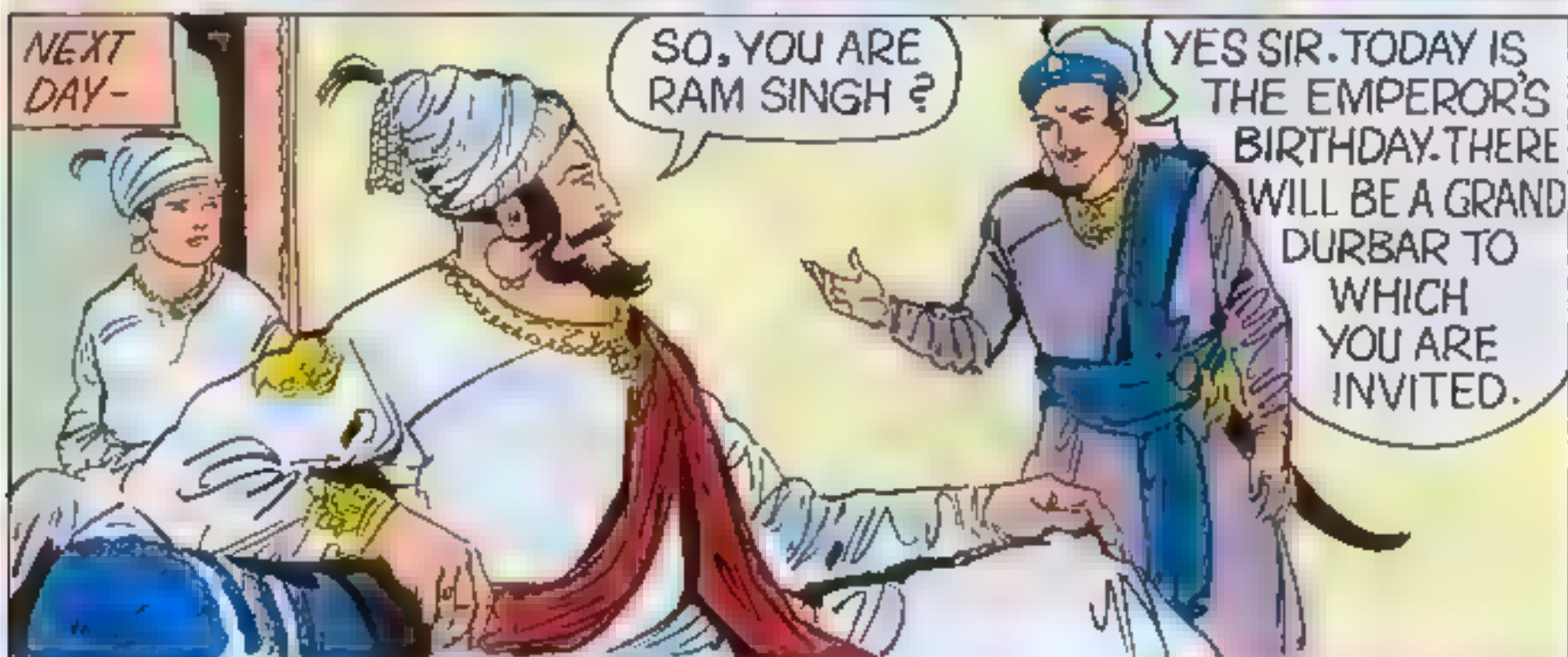
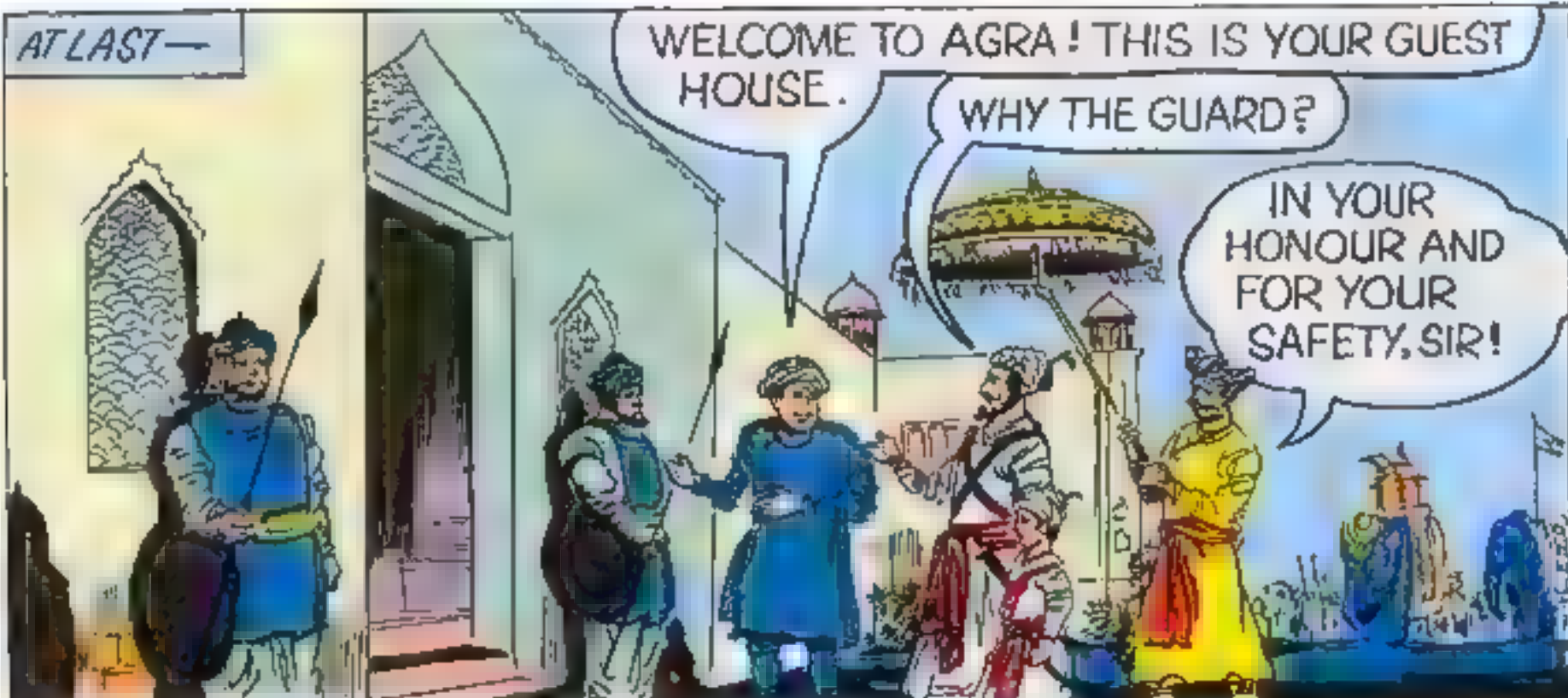
RAJA JAI SINGH MOVED WITH HIS NEW ITALIAN-TRAINED ARTILLERY. HE TOOK FORT AFTER FORT...



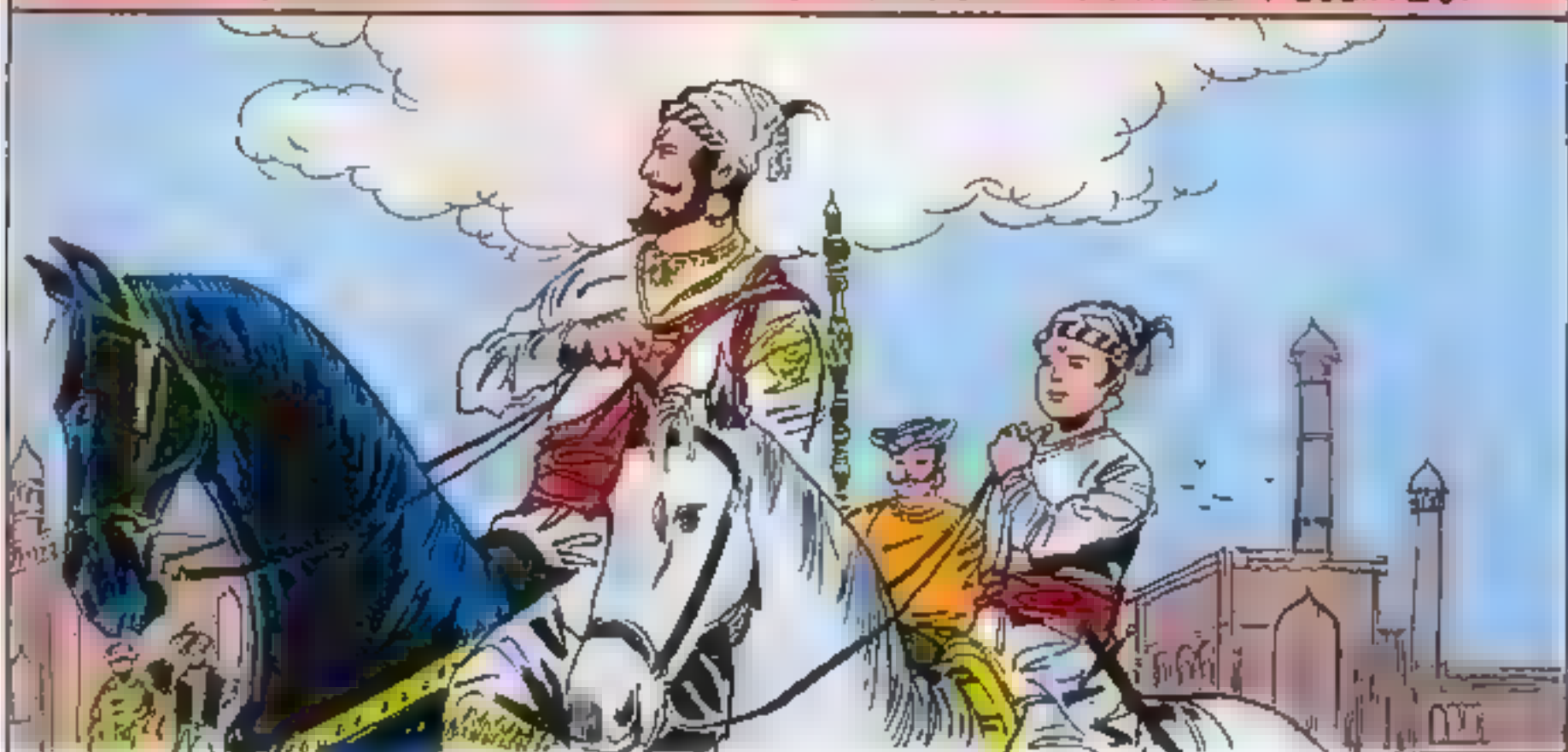
...TILL SHIVAJI HAD TO MAKE TEMPORARY PEACE WITH JAI SINGH.



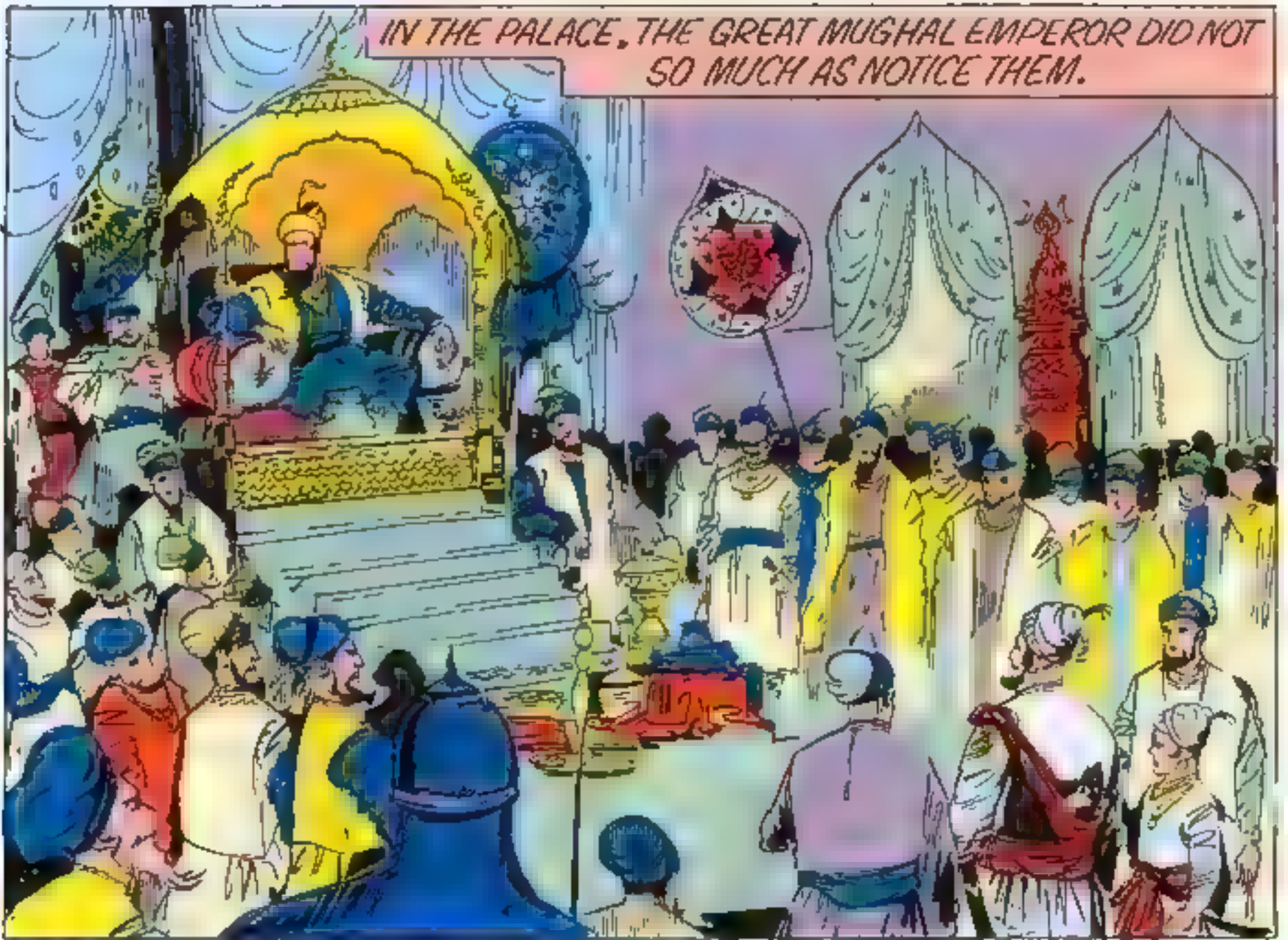




THE FATHER AND SON LEFT FOR THE DURBAR WITH MIXED FEELINGS.



IN THE PALACE, THE GREAT MUGHAL EMPEROR DID NOT
SO MUCH AS NOTICE THEM.



THEY WERE ASKED TO STAND WITH A
GROUP OF LOW-RANKING OFFICERS.



DID YOU NOTICE THAT, FATHER?
THE EMPEROR
HAS HONoured
OTHERS WITH
PRESENTS. HE
IS IGNORING
US!

SHIVAJI FLUSHED
WITH ANGER.

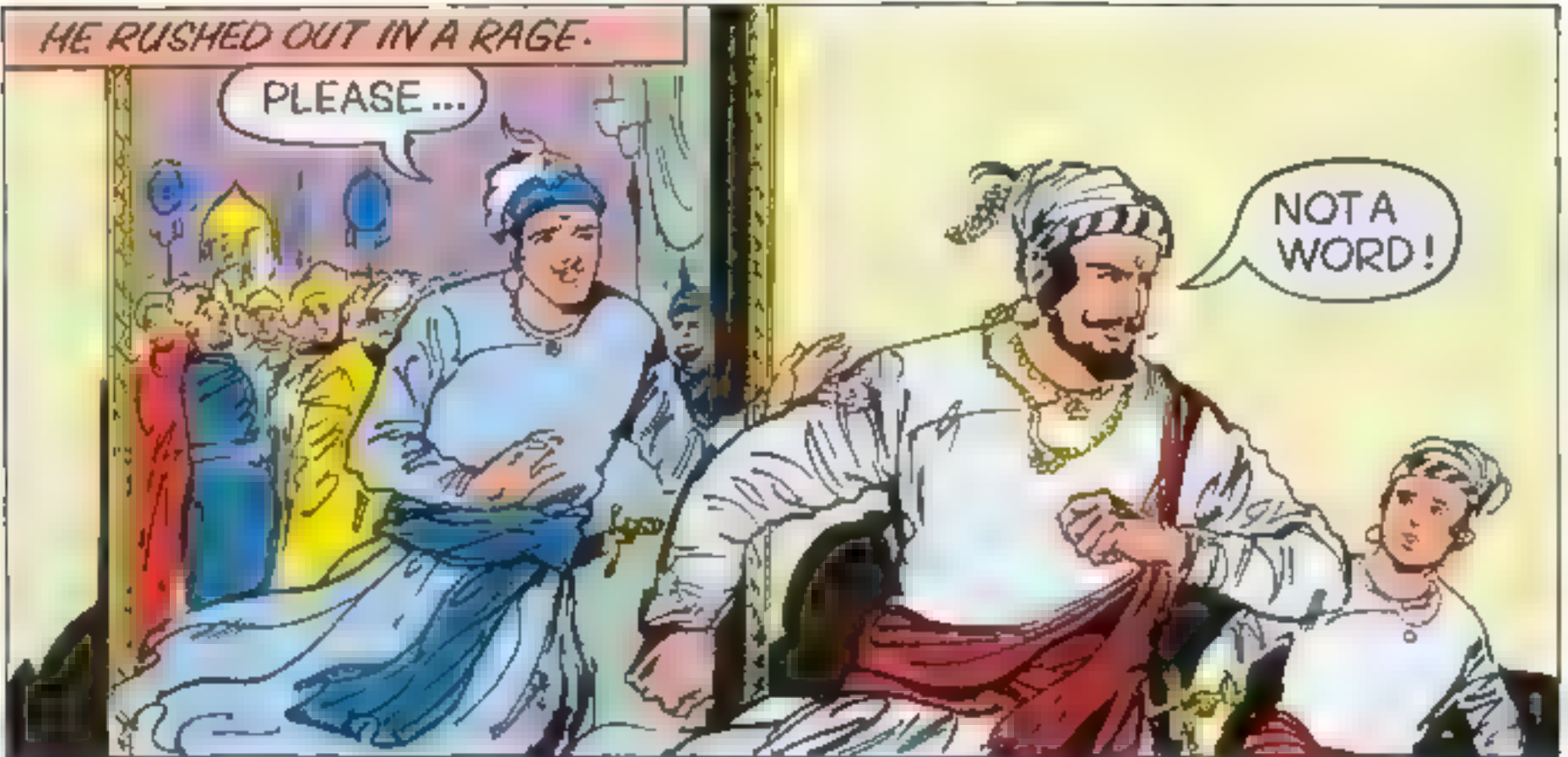
THIS IS AN INSULT! HE IS
HONOURING THE MAN WHOM
I DEFEATED.



HE RUSHED OUT IN A RAGE.

PLEASE...

NOT A
WORD!



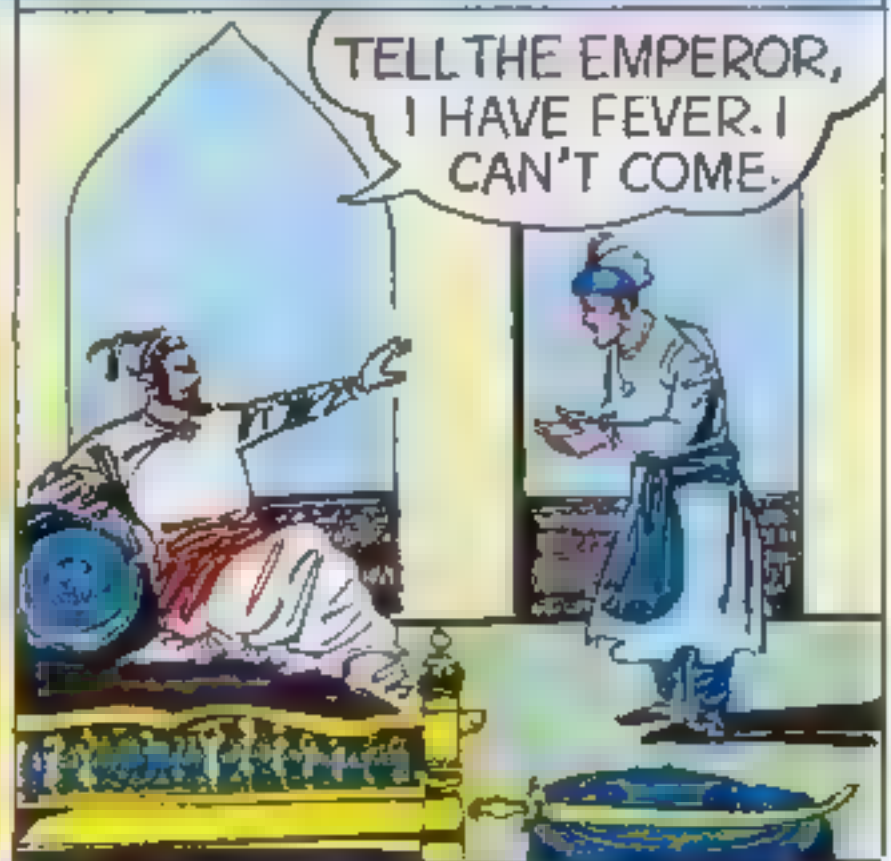
SHIVAJI'S REACTION SURPRISED
THE EMPEROR.

STRANGE MAN! CALL
HIM TOMORROW.
I'LL HONOUR HIM
AND HIS SON
TOO.



BUT IT WAS TOO LATE.

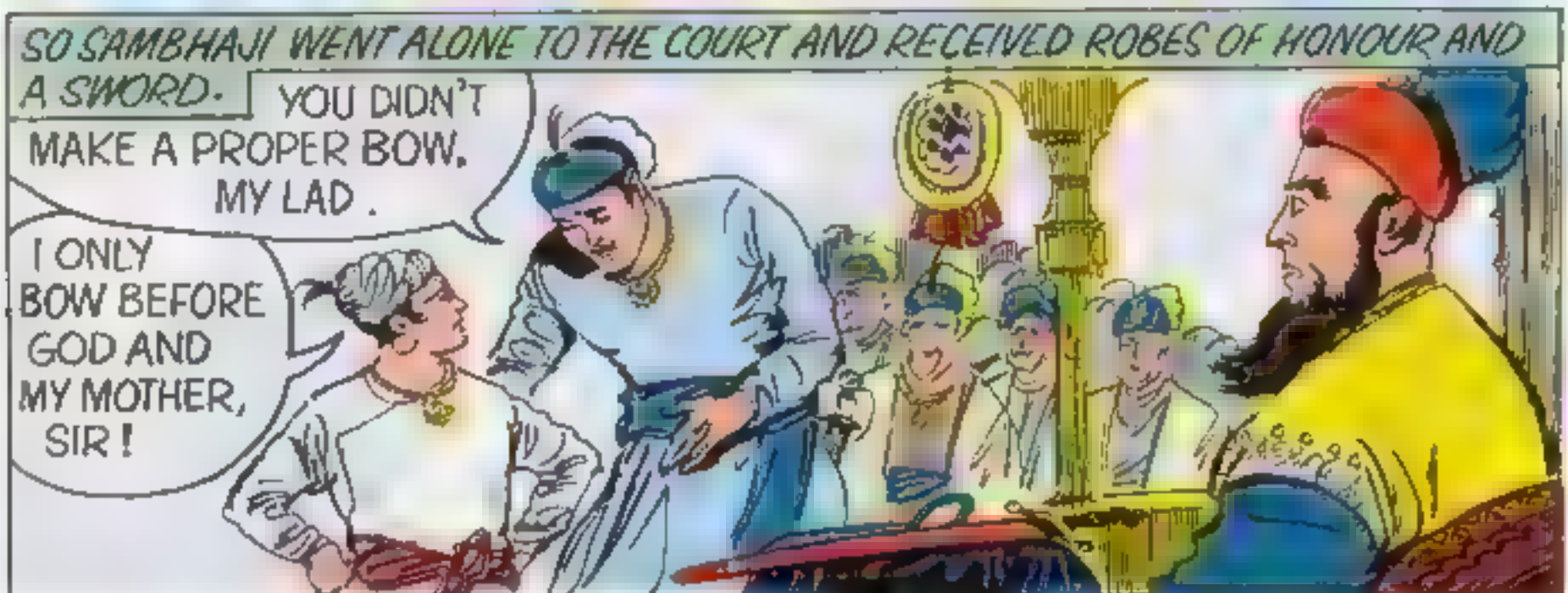
TELL THE EMPEROR,
I HAVE FEVER. I
CAN'T COME.



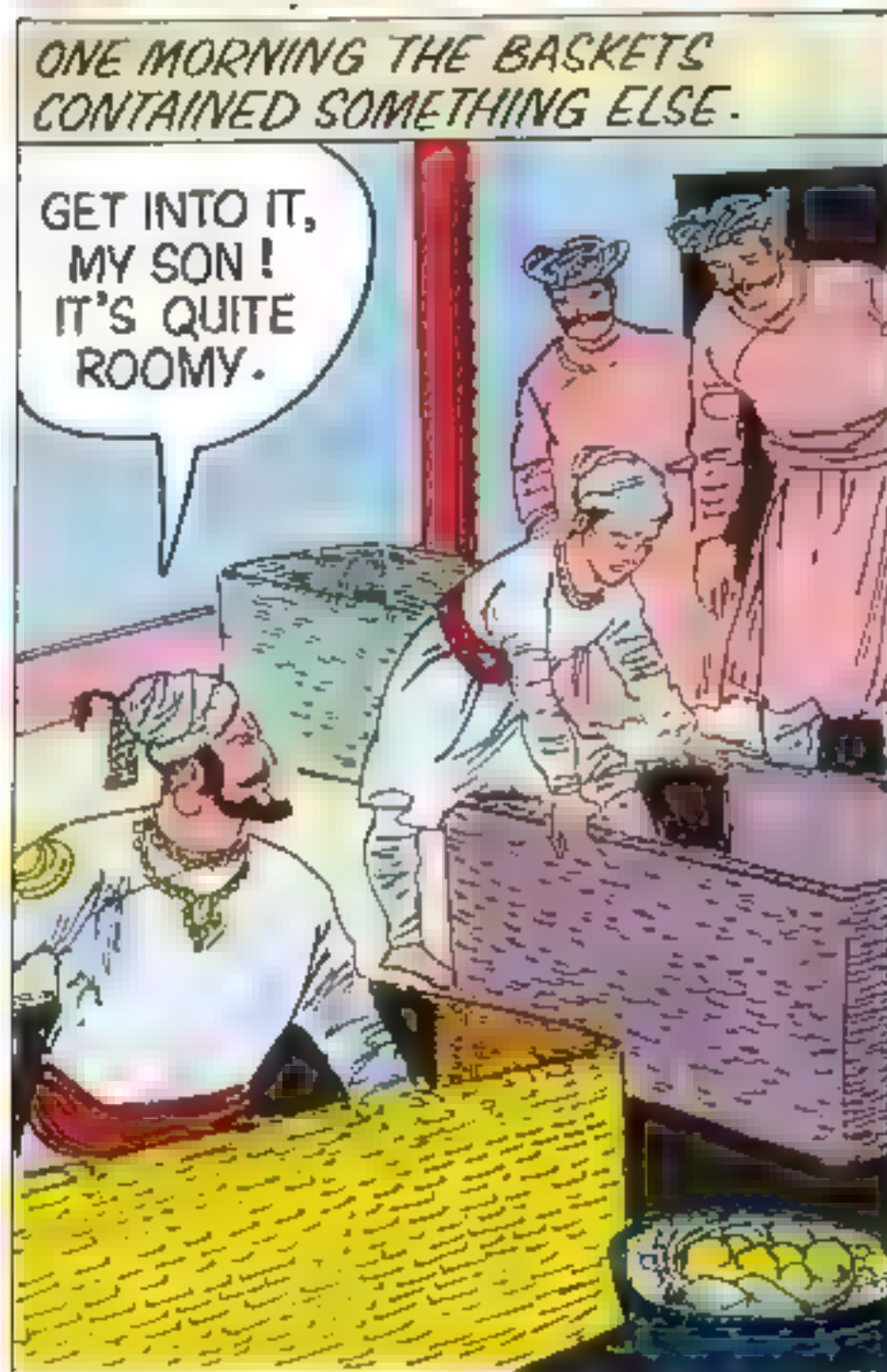
SO SAMBHAJI WENT ALONE TO THE COURT AND RECEIVED ROBES OF HONOUR AND
A SWORD.

YOU DIDN'T
MAKE A PROPER BOW,
MY LAD.

I ONLY
BOW BEFORE
GOD AND
MY MOTHER,
SIR!







LATER —

HAVE YOU SEEN SHIVAJI AND SAMBHAJI?

I SAW THEM A MOMENT AGO. THEY ARE FAST ASLEEP.

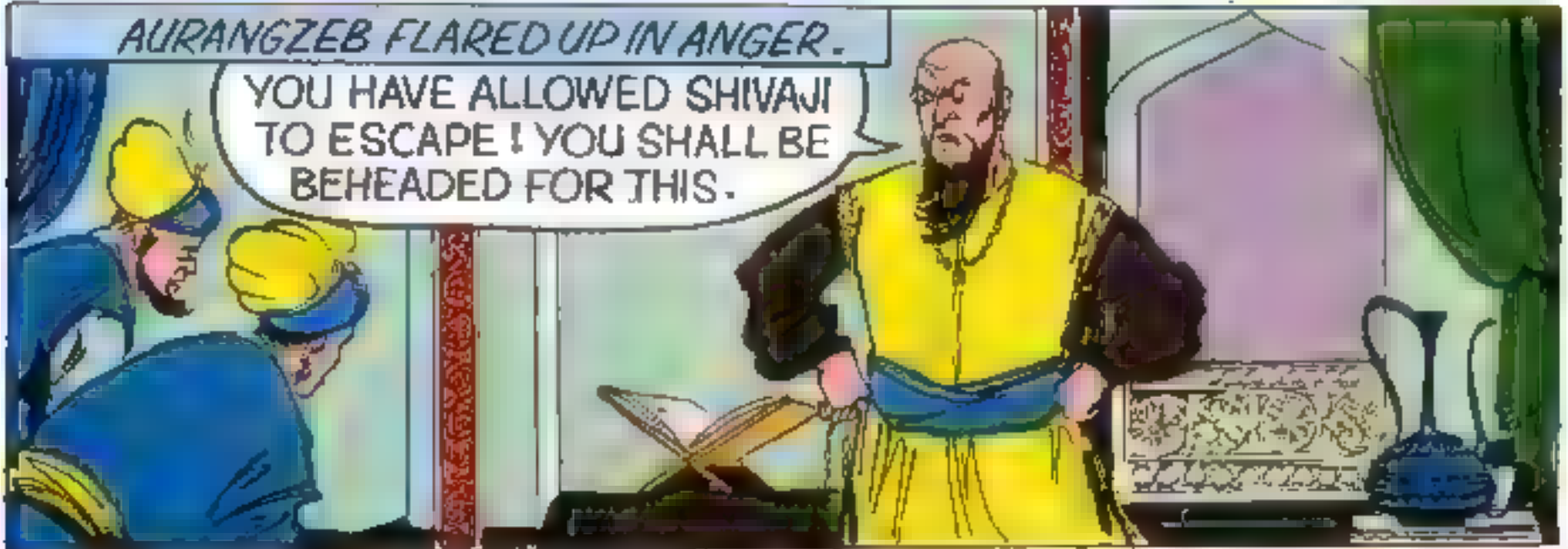


MY GOD !
THERE'S
NOBODY
THERE !



AURANGZEB FLARED UP IN ANGER.

YOU HAVE ALLOWED SHIVAJI
TO ESCAPE ! YOU SHALL BE
BEHEADED FOR THIS.



HORSEMEN WERE DISPATCHED IN ALL DIRECTIONS, BUT SHIVAJI COULD NOT BE FOUND.



MEANWHILE, IN A LONELY SPOT—

HORSES IN
READINESS FOR
YOU, MAHARAJ!

I THANK
YOU!



CHANGING HIS DISGUISE EVERY NOW AND THEN, SHIVAJI MANAGED TO
ESCAPE TO THE SOUTH. EVERYWHERE PEOPLE HELPED HIM.

SAMBHAJI WILL STAY
WITH YOU FOR A WHILE.

I AM HONOURED,
MAHARAJ!



HE REACHED HOME SAFELY.

OUR BELOVED
SHIVAJI HAS
COME BACK! SAFE
AND SOUND!

GLORY BE TO GOD!



A FEW YEARS AFTER HIS DARING ESCAPE FROM AGRA, SHIVAJI WAS CROWNED KING AT A GRAND CEREMONY AT RAIGADH.

MY SON, THIS IS THE DAY I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR !

A PEOPLE'S KING!

AS LONG AS FREEDOM IS CHERISHED, HIS NAME WILL SHINE AND INSPIRE MILLIONS.



AS A KING HE RULED ONLY FOR FIVE YEARS; BUT THE MARATHA POWER WHICH HE HAD BUILT, FLOURISHED FOR MANY YEARS AFTER HIM.

WHICH OF THE ACKS HAVE YOU STILL NOT READ?

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BIRBAL THE WISE
BIRBAL THE WITTY
BIRBAL TO THE RESCUE
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CELESTIAL NECKLACE, THE
CHANDRALALAT
COWHERD OF ALAWI, THE
FEARLESS BOY AND OTHER
BUDDHIST TALES, THE
FOOL'S DISCIPLES, THE
FRIENDS AND FOES
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